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Tower would add twist to city skyline

52 storeys tall. Open house for proposed building impresses majority with design

Fantastic. Fabulous. Wonderful. Special. Marvelous.

Vancouver's urban design panel had rave reviews for a proposed 52-storey tower with small triangular buildings at its base, planned to sit at the foot of the Granville Bridge. And the public largely echoed the sentiment at an open house Thursday attended by the rock star architect himself.

Renowned Copenhagen architect Bjarke Ingels designed the 497-foot mixed-use tower with triangular buildings at its base to fit into the tricky area beneath the bridge at Beach and Howe to try to turn it into an attractive, lively neighbourhood, he said.

"If you want to have dense cities. You can't afford to lose an entire area like this and make it into a wasteland," he said.

Ingels designed the building with a triangular base that grows into a rectangle at the top to meet the city's distance requirements from the bridge. The project also promises to revitalize the space below the bridge with commercial properties.

Urban planners, local architects and designers at the open house threw around words such as "iconic" and "legacy" as they expressed excitement at the prospect of adding Ingels' name to Vancouver's roster.

But some neighbours were less impressed. The building is tall — about 70 feet taller than is currently allowed in the area — and some aren't keen to lose their views to the twisted tower.

"It's seems like the pace of development is outstripping the value," said Claudio Signorelli, who will live in the shadow of the development and worries about extra traffic, wind, construction noise and darkness.

Others looked forward to the promised retail and markets underneath the bridge instead of "wasted space."

"It's going to be great for the area," longtime resident Ruby Turner said. "It makes us look like a really high class city — it's not just another block going up."

The building is currently in the rezoning process — some planning kinks need to be worked out before it goes to public hearing later this year. While the building isn't applying under any affordable housing incentive programs such as STIR, 95 of the 502 residential units will be rentals.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

The proposed 497-foot tower, designed by renowned architect Bjarke Ingels, pictured, to be built at Beach and Howe.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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NEWS 1

Crime.
Local crack shacks, prostitution properties target of new B.C. agency

British Columbians dealing with neighbourhood crack shacks and other problem properties will soon be able to file anonymous complaints to a new agency rather than call police.

Justice Minister Shirley Bond said the yet-to-be named agency will be created as part of legislation she will introduce Thursday.

"Other jurisdictions have this legislation and it's time British Columbia joined that group or provinces," Bond said, adding premises that provide illegal services such as prostitution will also be targeted.

"This will be a civil process so it doesn't deal with criminal issues, and it would need to be demonstrated that the behaviour is repetitive."

Officials at the agency will contact the property owner and residents about complaints and charges could result if the issues are not resolved, Bond said.

Abbotsford Police Chief Bob Rich said chronic offenders often live in problem locations that can make an entire neighbourhood feel chaotic and unsafe.

"The crime rates we are trying to drive down can be deeply affected by one or two problem premises in a community," Rich said.

"We, for example, have a goal, as part of our strategic plan in Abbotsford, of ending problem premises within three months of realizing that we have that problem," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A member of the Coast Guard closes a gate after colleagues left the Kitsilano Coast Guard station when it was closed permanently in Vancouver on Tuesday.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

East versus West: Why does N.L. get station?

Coast Guard. Hearing Burin, N.L., will get a new station after Kitsilano's shuttered is 'sort of like a one-two sucker punch': Coun.

KATE WEBB
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Vancouver Coun. Kerry Jang says his constituents are outraged the federal government chose the same week it closed the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station to re-announce a new station will be built on the East Coast.

"It's sort of like a one-two sucker punch," Jang said Thursday after hearing the Coast Guard will spend $6.6 million to replace a deteriorating station in Burin, N.L.

"…If they can put that much money into another base somewhere else, it says to me that there's clearly money in the system. If they can put $6.6 million over there, $700,000 is nothing for Canada's busiest port."

Vancouver Quadra MP and Liberal leadership candidate Joyce Murray accused the Conservative government of playing politics with a matter of public safety.

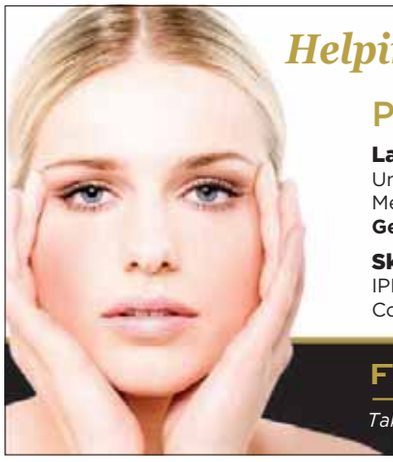
"They say it's a refurbishment of a 50-year-old base," she said. "Well, my house is 75 years old, and it's serving me well, so what's the incremental benefit in health and safety that would justify six times the investment, compared with the money they're saving by shutting down the Kits base, which search and rescue frontline responders are saying is a risky, bad public policy?"

Coast Guard spokesman Dan Bate said his office could not comment any further about the closure of the Kitsilano base, which was announced last spring and executed quietly on Tuesday during the unveiling of the B.C. budget.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) spokeswoman Erin Filliter said the funding for the Burin station is part of last year's operating budget, and the announcement was only meant to alert the local community that construction will begin this spring.

The only remaining Vancouver-area Coast Guard station is 17 nautical miles and at least 30 minutes away from the former Kitsilano Coast Guard Station, in Richmond.

It has two hovercrafts, one of which is slated to be replaced and the other refitted, and one zodiac to respond to emergencies within a 64-kilometre radius.



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Support. Suzuki gives big boost to Liberal leadership hopeful Joyce Murray

Environmental crusader David Suzuki has thrown his high-profile weight behind Joyce Murray's bid to become leader of the federal Liberal party.

The well-known scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster said Thursday he's endorsing Murray because of what he called her "coherent vision of Canada as a sustainable society."

He also agrees with the Vancouver MP's proposal for one-time co-operation among Liberals, New Democrats and Greens in 2015 in order to defeat the Harper Conservatives and implement electoral reform.

In an open letter to Canadians, Suzuki urged all progressive voters to back Murray, noting that the Liberal party has made it possible for anyone — not just card-carrying, dues-paying members — to participate in the selection of its next leader.

Suzuki has 238,000 Facebook followers, a huge pool of potential supporters for Murray to tap into.

Her dark horse campaign appears to have been gaining momentum over the last couple of weeks with support from online and grassroots advocacy groups that favour electoral co-operation.

Murray, a former British Columbia environment minister, is the only one of nine leadership contenders to support that co-operation. She proposes holding run-off nominations so that progressive parties put up a single candidate to face the Conservatives in vulnerable ridings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Environmentalist David Suzuki
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staycation vs. vacation. Should I stay or should I go?

Do you take at least one vacation per year? Are international destinations of most interest to you? Are you often considering "staycation" activities for your friends and family? If so, you are clearly not alone. Play Taxi Media, a Canadian-based media company with a national network of touch screens in taxicabs, surveyed more than 8,000 riders across the country, and found that riders incorporate both travel and local activities into their annual vacation plans.

When booking vacations, 70 per cent of riders indicated that they take between one and five vacations per year, with 75 per cent opting to travel to Mexico and other international destinations.

Staycation plans rank high as well with 75 per cent of people booking outings for both themselves and for others. Finally, close to 50 per cent spend more than $100 per outing for each individual, with dining and visiting city attractions ranking as the most popular outings. PLAY TAXI MEDIA

Great minds

Physicists take on the universe

Some of the world's greatest minds have collided in Vancouver and launched a new team that will try to solve some of the universe's deepest secrets.

The physicists have been designing two separate particle colliders, known as linear colliders.

The colliders hurl billions of electrons at positrons — their anti-particles — along kilometre-long superconducting cavities at nearly the speed of light.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Queen of the North

Rules not followed during ferry sinking, trial hears

The trial into a fatal ferry sinking off B.C. is hearing federal regulations required three people on the bridge, but some senior crew members interpreted those rules differently and there were only two people on the bridge the night the ship sank.

The Queen of the North sank in March 2006, killing two passengers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP Cpl. Bert Paquet urges anyone with information about the killing of Surrey woman Janice Shore to come forward. Shore was attacked in early December and died this week in hospital. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Beating victim's family asks for help

Grieving. The victim left behind three grown children, two brothers and a sister

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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A family is appealing for information into the beating death of a Surrey woman.

Janice Shore, 45, was found unconscious and badly beaten in a vacant lot near 104th Avenue and 135A Street in early December.

The 45-year-old died of her severe head and facial injuries in hospital on Monday. The integrated homicide team took over the case the next day.

Cpl. Bari Emam with the integrated homicide team read a statement from Shore's family.

"We remember Janice's childhood as normal as any of our childhoods," they wrote. "We never thought she would die under such horrible circumstances. Janice battled with mental health issues most of her life. However, she did not deserve to die in such a way.

"Although distanced from most of her family for many years and living a life which may have ultimately led to her tragic death, Janice was still a member of our family whose death we are grieving," they added.

Shore left behind three grown children, two brothers and a sister.

Surrey RCMP Cpl. Bert Paquet said Shore was involved in "high-risk activities" such as street sex trade work, drug and alcohol use.

Paquet said reports about Shore being homeless and that she was found chained to a tree are not accurate.

He said that Shore was "attached to a residence" at the time, but was known to frequent homeless shelters in the area.

Police weren't able to interview Shore and wouldn't reveal whether or not she had been sexually assaulted.

"We are hoping that anyone with information at this point that has not spoken to police will contact us as soon as possible ... Our main goal right now is to solve this crime," Paquet said.

B.C. failing to protect biodiversity: Report

The British Columbia government is not doing enough to protect the province's biodiversity — and it doesn't even appear to have a clear understanding of what biodiversity is, says a report by the provincial auditor general.

John Doyle's review also found the government is not adequately measuring its progress and doesn't know if its actions have been effective in conserving the vast array of life in the province and the ecosystems that support them.

"British Columbia is Canada's most biologically diverse province; however, recent assessments have shown that many of its species and ecosystems are declining," Doyle wrote in the report released Thursday.

Despite decades of commitments to conservation, Doyle found the B.C. government has not fully implemented promised policies and tools.

There are gaps in legislation and a lack of information, he wrote.

"Habitat preservation is critical to the conservation of biodiversity and government's lack of implementation and monitoring is troubling," Doyle said in a statement.

"My office reviewed the government's habitat conservation efforts 20 years ago and many of the issues identified in that report were also identified in this audit."

Doyle made six recommendations, including a timeline for conservation actions and clear goals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

M&M'S® SPOKES CANDIES CALL IT QUITS!

Red and Yellow shock fans with resignation letter.

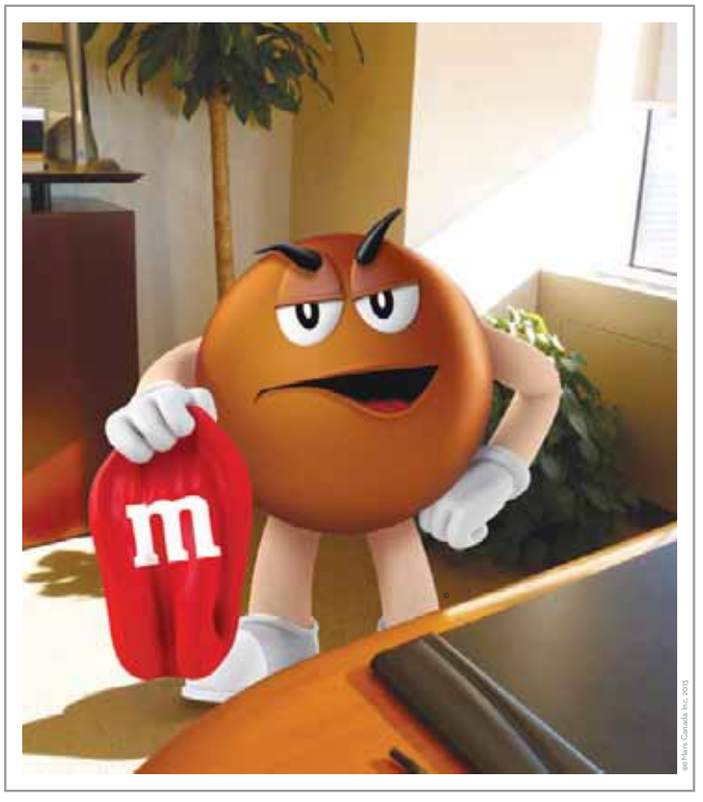
Milk chocolate lovers across the country today are mourning the loss of *M&M'S* iconic spokes candies Red and Yellow, following Tuesday's public announcement that they are hanging up their '*M*'s' and parting ways with the *M&M'S* team immediately to avoid being eaten.

"Those two have been with us for almost 60 years, so it came as a real shock" said *M&M'S* Chief Chocolate Officer Ms Brown, following the leak of Red and Yellow's resignation letter to the press on Friday. "But don't forget – the rest of us *M&M'S* spokes candies deal with the same problem everyday. Worse, I always get people smirking at me because they think I'm naked!" she continued.

The rant-filled resignation letter – which can be read in its entirety on facebook.com/mmscanada and on twitter @mmscanada – is quite abrasive and aggressive, complicating the possibility of any reconciliation. In their letter, the former spokes candies cite their daily fear of being eaten, among other things, as the main reason for resigning – going so far as to blame Canadians for their untamed love of milk chocolate.

Most *M&M'S* fans have been reacting to their departure with disappointment. "I loved Red and Yellow. You can't replace those two. It just won't be the same without them" says Craig Brandon, longtime *M&M'S* fan. Others are angry. "What the heck! This is how you thank your fans?" complains Jennifer Machey. And meanwhile, some people seemed confused. "Does this mean they're hiring? My grandson needs a summer job" said a man by the name of 'Bugsy'. As for the other *M&M'S* spokes candies – they wouldn't return our calls.

The departure of Red and Yellow as the mascots of the *M&M'S* brand has sparked speculation as to who will take over leading the corporate image. When asked if the company plans to promote from within or hire outside to fill the role of Red and Yellow, a company PR agent responded,



"I loved Red and Yellow. You can't replace those two. It just won't be the same without them."

Says Craig Brandon, longtime M&M's fan.

"You have to understand the position we're in now. Red and Yellow broke the mold. It's going to be very hard to fill their shoes, and that's not candy-coating it." Reactions on twitter have linked to leaked images of potential mascots sporting colours like Maroon and Sea Foam. The PR agent would not comment on the leaked images at this time.

Red and Yellow have since been spotted roaming around without their iconic '*M*' emblazoned candy shells on.

Perhaps it hasn't yet dawned on them that they are now naked. Whatever the case may be, one thing is for certain – the former *M&M'S* mascots have achieved celebrity status over the years and will surely be missed. Keep following this breaking news story as it unfolds at facebook.com/mmscanada and @mmscanada on twitter.

Heartbreak city: Don't expect a love lock destination in Vancouver

Burrard Bridge. City planning to remove sweet symbols in the future; no word yet on when the heartbreak will be inflicted

EMILY JACKSON
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Vancouver's romance with love locks may soon be a fleeting memory.

The padlocks attached to the fence along the Burrard Bridge as a symbol of undying love may seem sweet to some, but the city doesn't plan on encouraging the behaviour.

"We will leave them for a period of time but will eventually remove them if they impede traffic, pedestrians or cause structural or aesthetic concerns," according to a statement from Peter Judd, the city's general manager of engineering services.

Cities across the world have grappled with how to deal with love locks placed by sweethearts on bridges and fences from Uruguay to Taiwan to Serbia. The trend, which predates the Second World War, has sparked both tourism and headaches for city officials trying to preserve aging infrastructure.

No word on when the current locks will be chopped down or whether their removal will cause immediate heartbreak.

Tough crowd

"We will leave them up for a period of time but will eventually remove them if they impede traffic, pedestrians or cause structural or aesthetic concerns."

Peter Judd, the city's general manager of engineering services

The city plans to eventually cut down the love locks on the Burrard Bridge. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Oil on Lougheed Hwy. not from pipeline: RCMP

Investigation. Oil ended up on the road and in the sewer; police trying to find out how it got there

KATE WEBB
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Police still don't know how a small oil spill made it onto Lougheed Highway on Thursday morning but have determined it was not from a pipeline.

The oil spilled into the sewer and shut down one lane of traffic during rush hour.

A Kinder Morgan spokeswoman said the company's closest pipeline is several kilometres away.

"It didn't come from a pipe and it wasn't local, so the assumption is it's been dropped there," said Cpl. Dave Reid of Burnaby RCMP, "either off the back of a vehicle, and it could have been just a container that had some oil in it, or it could have been a vehicle that blew its engine and all the oil popped out of his oil pan."

City engineers initially reported that 1,000 litres had spilled on the highway near Beta Avenue, but quickly retracted that, saying it could have been just several.

The oil in the sewer was cleaned up using special towels and the road was sanded to make it safe for drivers.

"From an eco perspective, it's incumbent on the city and everyone else involved to make sure that it doesn't get into the waterways, that it's appropriately managed and that we find out where it came from," Reid said.

He said anyone who can explain how the oil got on the road can call Burnaby RCMP without fear of repercussions at 604-294-7922.

City crews sanded a portion of the Lougheed Highway that was covered in oil on Thursday morning. CAM TUCKER/METRO

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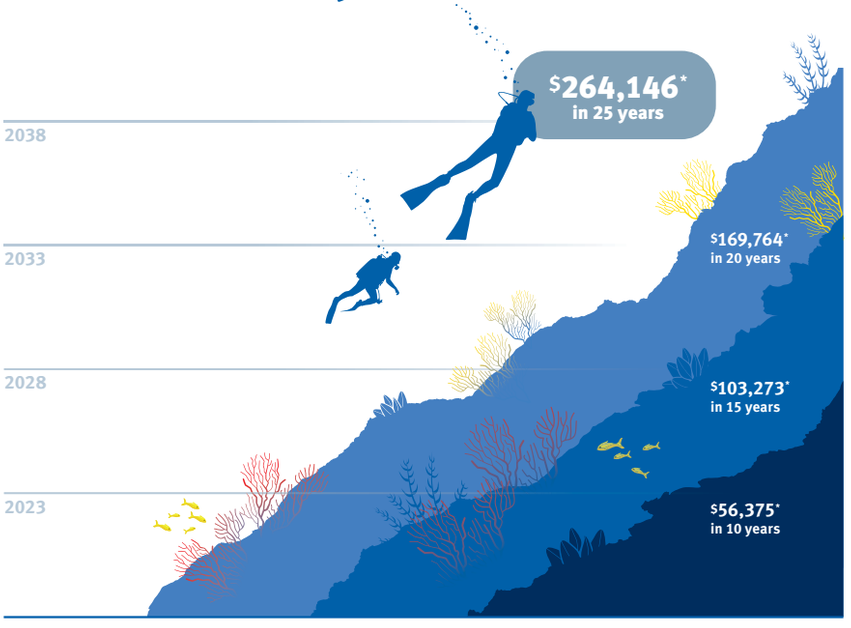

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Dispute. 'Have not' community centre shuns park board talks

Yet another community centre is refusing to negotiate with the Vancouver park board due to what it sees as a "disrespectful" process.

The Kensington Community Centre Association, considered by the city to be a "have not" centre, is the sixth to opt out of negotiations for a new operating agreement between the board and the 20 associations that run the city's community centres.

"It's clear that the park board is intent on implementing its plans and that negotiations will neither be transparent nor appropriate to the magnitude of the issue," says a statement from Brad Tamplin, board member at Kensington.

At issue is control of revenue. The associations have held the purse strings for 40 years, but the board wants to control surplus cash in a bid to equalize services across centres.

The board maintains no services will be cut and some will be added. It has repeatedly stressed that the financial structure is pending further negotiations, but six associations believe it's negotiating in "bad faith" and the outcome is "predetermined."

In a February poll commissioned by these six associations, 48 per cent of Vancouverites who knew about the proposed changes opposed them and 22 per cent supported them.

The six say they would return to the negotiating table if the board removed the "rushed" timeline and the limits of what can be discussed. The city started meeting with the remaining centres on Feb. 16, but refused to say how long the negotiations are slated to take.

By the way…

Coun. Geoff Meggs is no longer filing a complaint about Coun. Adriane Carr after she accused the city manager of illegally quashing her motion last week. In a meeting with Mayor Gregor Robertson, the three agreed some of her comments contravened the city's code of conduct and decided to clarify how the city agenda is prepared. Carr's motion was to see how much money impending changes to the park board's operating agreement with community centres could cost the city.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Energy battle

B.C. to continue fight over power sales to California

The energy windfall B.C. pocketed more than a decade ago at the expense of power-starved Californians has sparked a legal case that could cost Powerex, a BC Hydro subsidiary, hundreds of millions of dollars. A U.S. federal judge ruled this month that California could recover up to $1.6 billion from several power companies, including Powerex, after energy prices spiked up to 900 per cent in 2000 and 2001. Both the province and Powerex say they will appeal the ruling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accident

Invermere woman hit by coal train

A woman struck and killed by a CP Rail train was from Invermere, the BC Coroners Service says.

Carmen Salazar, 50, was walking with a friend across the tracks at a crossing near Invermere on Tuesday night. The Coroners Service says Salazar was standing with her back very close to the tracks when she was struck by a coal train. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The BC Coroners Service and the RCMP are investigating the death.

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Police search for evidence along 140th Street near Hyland Elementary School in Surrey Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Missing man found dead in car

Surrey. Police would not confirm whether homicide was gang-related

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

A 29-year-old Surrey man reported missing over the weekend was found dead in a car near an elementary school Thursday.

Vimal Chand's body was discovered by a passerby at around 6:30 p.m. inside a car parked right across from Hyland Elementary School. Neighbours told police the car had been in the same spot for days.

Chand was last seen leaving his family's home in Whalley on Saturday and was reported missing to the Surrey RCMP on Sunday.

Cpl. Bari Emam with the integrated homicide team wouldn't confirm whether the homicide was gang-related or if Chand had any run-ins with police.

According to court records, a man with the same name was found guilty for assault with a weapon in 2007 and had a history of driving infractions.

Quiet area

"Nothing like this has happened here before."

Sharokh, a man with daughters who attend Hyland Elementary School

Emam wouldn't reveal if Chand's body was found in his own or his family's car and whether he died inside the vehicle.

His friends and family set up a Facebook page to get information on his whereabouts, but it has now been filled with messages of support and condolences.

"Vimal I have known you for so many years, you were such an amazing and fun person to be around. My heart goes out to your sister, mom and dad. You will forever remain in my heart," Harmz Bhandal wrote.

Sharokh, who did not want his surname published, said he was concerned for the safety of his two daughters who went to Hyland.

"This is a nice quiet neighbourhood," he told Metro at the scene. "Nothing like this has happened here before … Who's going to forget the yellow (police) tapes? I'm pretty sure these kids are not going to forget the tape outside their school."

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Union fears civil servants will be assaulted over EI overhaul

Employment insurance. Employees have been hand-delivering surprise papers to EI recipients

The union representing federal employees is asking the government to stop sending its workers for unannounced visits to the homes of employment insurance recipients.

The union says it fears for the safety of its employees, given the level of public anger over changes to the EI system.

"We've been hearing from (civil servants) who have gone to houses ... and they've been badly received," Larry Rousseau, a spokesman for the Public Service Alliance of Canada, said Thursday.

"What will it take — an untoward or unfortunate incident (for these visits to stop)? Why do we have to test the limits of people's patience like this?"

He spoke following a report by The Canadian Press that public servants have been making unannounced visits since January as part of an examination while EI is being overhauled.

During those visits, federal employees have been hand-delivering questionnaires and requests for people to appear at their regular EI interviews.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper defended the house calls when asked Thursday.

"Every year, unfortunately, in our employment insurance system, hundreds of millions of dollars are identified or are lost through false, fraudulent or inappropriate claims," he said.

About 1,200 beneficiaries will be visited through the end of next month.

From now on, people who frequently claim EI are expected to accept any job for which they're qualified within 100 kilometres of home, as long as the pay is 70 per cent of their previous salary.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Las Vegas shooting sets off lethal chain reaction

Police rope off the scene of a shooting and multi-car accident on the Las Vegas Strip early Thursday. Authorities say at least one person in a Range Rover shot at people in a Maserati that then crashed into a taxi. The cab burst into flames, and the driver and passenger were killed. The male driver of the Maserati also died, and his passenger was shot. STEVE MARCUS, LAS VEGAS SUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Edmonton. Murder added to charges after parents' alleged abuse of twin girls

An Edmonton couple charged with starving and abusing their young twins are to appear in court Friday on new charges of second-degree murder and criminal negligence causing the death of one of the girls.

In addition, they will still face original charges of aggravated assault, criminal negligence causing bodily harm and failing to provide the necessities of life.

Paramedics were called last May to a home where they found the two-year-old girls suffering from injuries and severe malnourishment. Police said they weighed just 13 and 16 pounds.

One of the girls, known in court documents as M, went into cardiac arrest and spent the next three months in a coma virtually brain dead.

Doctors said she had an irreversible brain injury and would never regain consciousness, but the parents fought to keep her on life support, citing their religious beliefs as Muslims and their love for the girl.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice June Ross ruled she should be taken off life support. She died Sept. 20.

The couple, who can't be named under Alberta's child protection laws, were escorted in handcuffs to their daughter's funeral at an Edmonton mosque.

The surviving twin and an older brother, who had not been injured, are now in foster care. THE CANADIAN PRESS

California

U.S. faces test of gay-marriage talk

The Obama administration is considering urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn California's ban on gay marriage.

The administration faces heightened expectations from gay-rights supporters after President Barack Obama, who only last year came out with his support, has become far more vocal in his second term.

His administration has a week to file a brief outlining its opinion on the California ban, known as Proposition 8. While it is unlikely to sway the high court, the government's opinion does carry weight with the justices.

Opponents of the ban believe the president signalled his intentions when he declared in last month's inaugural address that homosexuals must be "treated like anyone else under the law."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg

Former Scouts leader admits to sexual abuse

A former leader with Scouts Canada has pleaded guilty in Winnipeg to several sex charges involving minors.

Stuart Garrett Young, 40, has admitted to sexual assault, sexual exploitation, making child pornography and other offences.

His sentencing hearing is set for April 15.

Young was a longtime volunteer with Scouts Canada and helped run an outdoor program for kids 14 to 17 years old.

At the time of his arrest last summer, police alleged Young had abused one of his victims from 2009 to 2011.

Young was suspended from Scouts Canada as soon as the group became suspicious of him and notified police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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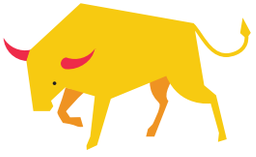
March 21 – April 20

Aries, your independent nature will direct you down a new and winding path. Make sure you follow it closely; a delicious reward awaits you at its end.



TAURUS

April 21 – May 21

Get ready to expand your realm of loyalty and devotion, Taurus. Soon, you will be introduced to an experience so wonderful it will be hard to turn away.

GEMINI

May 22 – June 21

Gemini, next week will be lucky if you choose to harness your energy and focus on what's happening around you. Something free might very well change your life.

CANCER

June 22 – July 23

Cancer, you are a master of flexibility and going with the flow – a good thing, because something unexpected is heading your way. All you'll have to do is follow your nose.

LEO

July 24 – August 23

Your constant drive to find the very best in life will be rewarded with something surprisingly free – take pride in your find, Leo.

VIRGO

August 24 – September 23

Don't worry Virgo; your ducks are still in a row next week. However, something may be on its way to shake things up. The best part? It will cost you nothing.

LIBRA

September 24 – October 23

Ever the peaceful Libra, your good karma will come back tenfold next week. Keep your eyes peeled for something you can't quite believe is real. Trust that it will be warm and fulfilling.

SCORPIO

October 24 – November 22

We all know you're good at paying attention Scorpio – and next week will be the time to apply this skill. And don't worry about taxing your resources – this discovery will be free of charge.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 – December 21

Soon there will be changes to your morning routine – so it's lucky Sagittarians welcome change with open arms. A bonus? It will be rich, smooth and delicious.

CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 20

Patience is a virtue, and you have it in spades Capricorn. That's why you won't mind waiting until next week to discover a new favourite thing.

AQUARIUS

January 21 – February 19

Your clever curiosity will pique in the next week, as you meet with promises of a new experience. Embrace it in its deliciousness, Aquarius.

PISCES

February 20 – March 20

Something is headed your way that even you couldn't have dreamed up, Pisces. Look forward to its arrival – it will be greater than even you could've imagined.

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India. Police search for men accused of raping and killing three sisters

Indian police said Thursday they have launched a manhunt for men suspected of raping and killing three sisters, aged five to 11, in the latest case of sexual violence to grip the country.

The sisters' bodies were found in a village well in Maharashtra state on Feb. 14 after they had gone missing from school, police officer Javed Ahmed said. The area is more than 1,000 kilometres south of New Delhi, the capital.

As the victims' mother accused police of a shoddy investigation, enraged villagers forced shops to close, burned tires and blocked a national highway passing through the area for several hours on Wednesday, demanding justice.

One police officer has been suspended for not acting promptly, said Indian Heavy Industries Minister Praful Patel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New law

A new law enacted by the Indian government has increased the sentences for rape from seven to 10 years to a maximum of 20 years. It also provides for the death penalty in extreme cases of rape that result in death or leave the victim in a coma.

Germany

Catholic hospitals can prescribe pill to rape victims

Roman Catholic-run hospitals can prescribe limited emergency contraception to rape victims, German bishops said Thursday as they sought to contain fallout from an embarrassing recent case in which two hospitals refused to treat a woman.

The German church was under pressure to clarify its stance after two Catholic hospitals in Cologne turned away a rape victim because of concerns over the pill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New detective takes over Pistorius murder case

Sensational twist. Prosecutors say timing of murder charges against detective leading investigation 'totally weird'

Ahead of a judge's decision on whether to release Oscar Pistorius on bail, South African police on Thursday appointed a new chief detective in the murder case, replacing a veteran policeman who is himself charged with attempted murder.

The sensational twist in the state's troubled investigation fuelled growing public fascination with the case against the double-amputee Olympian, who is charged with premeditated murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in the early hours of Valentine's Day.

Much of the drama Thursday, however, happened outside the courtroom as South African police scrambled to get their investigation on track.

The decision to put police Lt. Gen. Vinesh Moonoo in charge came soon after word emerged that the initial chief investigator, Hilton Botha, is facing attempted murder charges, and a day after he offered testimony damaging to the prosecution.

Police say they found out about it after Botha testified in Pistorius's bail hearing Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Discrepancies

- Botha acknowledged Wednesday in court that nothing in Pistorius's version of the fatal shooting of Steenkamp contradicted what police had discovered, even though there have been some discrepancies.
- Botha also said that police had left a 9 mm slug in the toilet and had lost track of allegedly illegal ammunition found in Pistorius's home.

Former investigating officer Hilton Botha sits inside the witness box during the bail hearing for Oscar Pistorius at the magistrate court in Pretoria, South Africa, Thursday. Botha, accused of attempted murder, has been replaced as lead detective in the Pistorius case. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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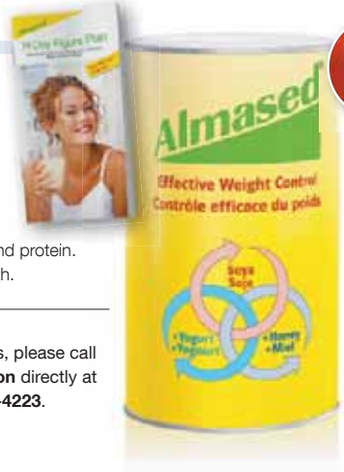

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Canada Innovates

Part 3

The final part of Metro's series on Canadian innovation may include some failed ideas, but could we have a winner when it comes to today's design?

You'll notice highlighted words in the text. These are words we feel are important to understanding the stories and may help you digest their meaning a little bit easier.

Does it work? Let us know by emailing readers@metronews.ca or tweet @MetroNewsCanada.

Exclusively online

Why are some cities more innovative than others? Find out from Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi at metronews.ca/videonaheednenshi

Self-made millionaire Arlene Dickinson was a struggling single mom of four when she turned Venture Communications into one of Canada's largest and most successful communications firms. CHRISTOPHER WAHL/CONTRIBUTED

A DRAGON'S EYE VIEW

Entrepreneur and TV personality Arlene Dickinson weighs in on Canada's innovation inertia

ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

The 2008 recession put a damper on **innovation** in Canada, says Arlene Dickinson of Dragons' Den, and while things are now "turning a corner," she believes the country still has a long way to go.

"Other places have been innovating at a **rapid** speed, and we haven't been putting as much time and attention into it," Dickinson told Metro in a recent interview.

"My concern about the state of innovation is that it's lagging behind."

The problem, according to the high-profile investor and businesswoman, is not a lack of **entrepreneurial spirit** in Canada.

Quite the contrary, in fact.

"You think about Dragons' Den and the number of entrepreneurs in the country that are coming forward — I think we are being very entrepreneurial," Dickinson said.

"But that's kind of a new **phenomenon**. That's happened in the last three or four years as we come out of a bad economy, because that's what's going to drive a new economy."

The sticking point for many of these would-be innovators is going from **concept** to **commercialization**.

As an example, she pointed to the "3-D Sawhorse" — an innovative hardware product developed in the garage of 82-year-old Sam Koffski, which Dickinson snapped up on Season 6 of Dragons' Den.

Falling behind

"Other places have been innovating at a rapid speed, and we haven't been putting much time and attention into it."
Venture Communications CEO Arlene Dickinson

The elderly entrepreneur had a great idea on his hands, Dickinson said, but struggled finding the **effective** financing, patents, manufacturing and distribution.

With a little help, though, that soon changed, and the product could hit retail shelves by the spring.

"It's about to go into stores, hopefully across the world," Dickinson said. "Sometimes what great **ideas** need is just somebody to open the doors and also to put the weight behind the idea to make it successful."

On a broader scale, Dickinson said Canada needs to change its **mentality** when it comes to innovation and make it a large part of the national discourse.

"We have to start talking about it more, making it part of the conversation of business in this country," she said. "If we don't, we're going to be in trouble. We're going to be left behind, absolutely."

Canada's closet of colossal failures

With great ideas come great failures, and Canada has had plenty of failures. But that's really no surprise given Canadians' entrepreneurial spirit.

Tom Villemaire is the co-author of Colossal Canadian Failures, a short history of things that seemed like a good idea at the time and an ode to Canada's innovative spirit gone **haywire**. Metro spoke with him about why failure is an important step in the innovative process.

In terms of innovation, where exactly did most of these ideas fail?

A lot of these so-called failures were victims of timing — they were good ideas but out of synch with the times. Some were marketing failures — the consumers just weren't convinced of the **potential**. Others were situations where the inventor was the victim of backers who lost confidence too early or got greedy. And some were just weird. George Kavanaugh's idea to use carrots for rectal treatment (with a recess in the carrot for medication) was really an odd idea from the start. And the idea of a perpetual motion machine made from wood — which, as we all know, creates sparks when two pieces of it are rubbed together and which, as we all know, burns very easily — was just plain wrong.

What was the best idea that went wrong? Why? And could it have worked if the situation was different?

Well, there are a few contenders, but I think ultimately it has to be the Avro Arrow — a supersonic, all-weather jet fighter that did very well in test flights with pilots.

But like almost every other government project, the **costs** were significantly higher than had been initially estimated ($1.5 million to $400 million to $700 million). The Liberals were in power when the Arrow was built and had to defend the expense. When John Diefenbaker's Conservatives defeated the Liberals in 1957, it took them under two years to cancel the Arrow program.

Were these mostly bad ideas or were they just developed wrong?

Some were bad ideas from the start, but in a lot of other cases, the inventors — or their backers — just lacked the self-confidence or **resources** to follow something through. Two guys from Toronto had a working light bulb before Thomas Edison. They couldn't raise money to develop it so they sold the patent to Edison, who was working on something similar and just rolled their idea into the mix.

Would you still call these inventors innovators, just because they were willing to try something new and different?

Many of these people were innovators and were **brilliant**. Not all, however. Samuel Hughes was a Conservative minister in charge of getting Canada ready for the First World War. Among his other questionable decisions, he registered a patent in his secretary's name for a new and **improved** shovel and ordered the shovels for his troops. In fact, the soldiers needed shovels to dig the foxholes and trenches that would help protect them in battle. But Hughes' secretary suggested they could use the shovels as shields and put holes in them so the soldiers could shoot from behind them. A shovel with a hole in it just isn't the most effective shovel.

Has Canada learned from these mistakes?

I think Canada has learned a little, but there are still plenty of Canadians who head south to "make it big," and that is a **symptom** of a problem. And some might say Canada doesn't always have the confidence and **boldness** to support its inventors and innovators.

Can future innovators learn from them?

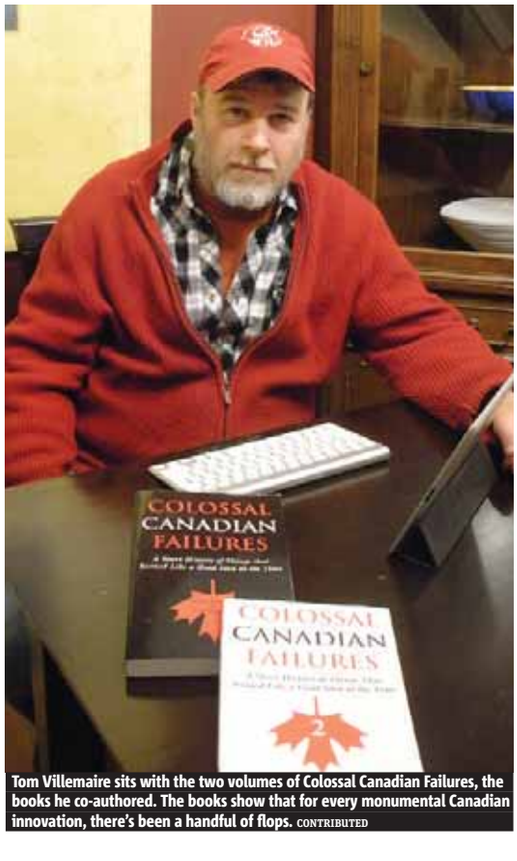
I think future innovators can draw **inspiration** from even the failures. Anyone who wants to try something new is daring to break new ground. That's a scary thing. Failure and doing something new are roommates; they're twins. You can't have one without the other. Even Alexander Graham Bell had failures — like the Cygnet II, a plane he designed with wings created from a wall of kites. At the time, there was nothing that had enough power to get the plane airborne in the first place. But he's not remembered for that; he's remembered for his **successes**.

How do you see Canada in terms of innovative thinking these days?

We have pretty **amazing** technology people in Canada. You look at the BlackBerry and the Canadarm and even the arms industry with the LAV3 or Stryker. **High-tech** means high pay and good jobs, so it's important to keep that kind of thing in the country.

METRO

For text of the full interview, visit metronews.ca/innovation



Tom Villemaire sits with the two volumes of Colossal Canadian Failures, the books he co-authored. The books show that for every monumental Canadian innovation, there's been a handful of flops. CONTRIBUTED

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Light-sabre classes teach Star Wars fans to feel the force

San Francisco. Ever wanted to put 'Jedi' on your resumé? This workshop will give you the requisite moves

Jim Collum, foreground, and other students work on light-sabre skills during a Golden Gate Knights class in San Francisco on Feb. 10. A group of San Francisco Star Wars fans who want to travel to a galaxy not that far away have created a combat choreography class for Jedis-in-training. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of San Francisco Star Wars fans have created a combat choreography class for Jedis-in-training with their weapon of choice: The light sabre.

At a recent class, Alain Bloch, the self-proclaimed Jedi Master at Golden Gate Knights, demonstrated a slicing technique. He has a background in martial arts and stage combat.

"Always be mindful of the presence!" he said, donning a Luke Skywalker outfit and a green light sabre.

With Star Wars movie music coursing through the dance studio, his disciples clutch their neon-glowing light sabres. These self-proclaimed Star Wars geeks slice and parry as they follow Bloch's lead, and they get a little exercise, too.

People in a recent class, including a couple on a date, said they embraced their quirkiness and had even converted some of the skeptical into the Jedi order.

"At first they giggle because they think it's a little silly. Then they're like, 'Actually that's kind of cool,'" said Julio Reyes, a student. Not all Jedis-in-training are rooting for the good guys. Some came to embrace the dark side of the force.

"I just love Vader, period," said the Darth Vader-clad student Gary Ripper. "Just his voice, the way he moved, the power of him. I just liked the powerfulness of him."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"At first (students) giggle because they think it's a little silly. Then they're like, 'Actually that's kind of cool.'"

Jedi-in-training Julio Reyes

Securities oversight

Canadian stock markets to get new 'circuit breakers'

Canadian stock markets will adopt new "circuit breakers" that will briefly stop trading when there is a big drop in a major index.

The changes will be consistent with measures planned for U.S. markets.

In essence, under the new rules, it will take a smaller drop to trip the circuit breaker but the pauses will be shorter when they do occur. The change was announced by the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada, a national body that helps oversee the country's securities markets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
98.16¢
(-0.14¢)

TSX 12,639.97 (-74.08)

OIL $92.84 US (-$2.38)

GOLD $1,578.60 US (+60¢)

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Lego gets sales boost from girls' product line

Toys. Danish company was unable to keep pace with demand for series that includes a beauty shop and dream house

Lego's sales soared 25 per cent last year thanks in part to its new series of building blocks designed for girls.

The privately owned company said Thursday that on revenue of about $4.2 billion its net profits grew 38 per cent, to about $1 billion.

The company, based in western Denmark, said Lego Star Wars and Lego Ninjago remained among its more popular series, but it was a novel rollout for girls, Lego Friends, that sold better than expected — to the extent that production units were unable to keep pace with demand.

By the numbers

7.9%

Lego said its share of the total U.S. toy market has quadrupled in five years. As of the end of 2012 it was 7.9 per cent, up 1.6 percentage points from the previous year.

In the U.S., Lego Friends surpassed early projections, with its sales eventually increasing three times more than expected, Lego said.

The new line, which includes mini-figures in pink, a dream house with a pool, and a beauty shop, was criticized by some U.S. consumer groups as reinforcing gender stereotypes.

The company, which sells products in more than 130 countries, expects sales to continue to climb in 2013, but at a slower rate due to global economic uncertainty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Lego Friends riding camp is pictured at Hamleys Toy store in London, England, during an unveiling of the top toys for Christmas 2012. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Downsizing. Rona to cut 200 positions across Canada

Home improvement retailer Rona Inc. plans to cut 200 full-time jobs across Canada and shrink its presence outside of Quebec as it seeks to rebuild a network that continues to underperform in the face of weak consumer demand.

The downsizing, which represents 15 per cent of its administrative positions, is part of the company's plan to focus on its core businesses and reduce other holdings.

"Our goal is to remain a full Canadian operation and even to accelerate this growth," acting CEO Dominique Boies said after unveiling details of Rona's strategic plan and fourth-quarter results. "By freeing up capital, we will be able to reinvest in that business and gain additional scale."

The Quebec-based company lost $17.9 million, or 15 cents per share, for the period ended Dec. 30, compared to a loss of $153.6 million or $1.19 per share a year earlier. Revenues increased 2.2 per cent to $1.2 billion largely on an extra week of business in the quarter.

Investors have been unhappy with Rona's financial performance, especially since it turned down a takeover offer from U.S.-based rival Lowe's last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Restaurants. Tim Hortons plans extra renos in 2013

Tim Hortons hopes a refreshed look for many of its stores and a new leader atop its executive team this summer will boost the brand as it endures an underwhelming economy and heavy competition from other coffee restaurants.

On Thursday, the Oakville, Ont.-based company delivered a cautious outlook for the year and fourth-quarter results that showed notably weaker transaction growth at stores that have been open for more than a year.

"A challenging economic climate and the resulting intensified environment continues to pose challenges for everyone in our industry," said Paul House, interim chief executive in a conference call with analysts.

The coffee, doughnut and fast-food company plans to renovate about 300 of its franchised stores this year, or roughly double the amount it has most other years.

In a release, Tim Hortons also gave an update on its search for a new leader: "The board has made significant progress in its external CEO search. Although the process is not yet complete, the board currently anticipates appointing a new CEO by early summer." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Designed for social shopping

Not sure about a potential style purchase? This change room at the new Simons store in West Edmonton Mall is designed to help. It has a digital photo studio resembling a giant iPad, which allows consumers to take photos of their shopping experience and post the photos to social media feeds to get instant feedback from friends. Figure3, a Toronto interior design firm, won Store of the Year in Chain Store Age's 31st annual design competition for its work on the 115,000-square-foot Simons store. CONTRIBUTED

Nielsen to measure broadband audiences

The company that measures television viewership said Thursday it will soon begin counting people who watch programming through broadband in addition to the traditional broadcast or cable hook-up.

Nielsen's move is a significant step toward recognizing a world where the definition of TV viewing is swiftly changing and toward satisfying clients concerned that the company isn't keeping up with those changes. Separately, Nielsen is developing ways to track content on tablets and mobile phones.

For many years, roughly 99 per cent of homes in the U.S. had televisions that received service through broadcast, cable or satellite signals.

Quoted

"Consumers are accessing content in new ways that fall outside of our traditional definitions and if we don't expand ... we could be missing an emerging trend."

Brian Fuhrer, senior vice-president, Nielsen

Now the number of homes without such service is 4.2 per cent — and growing each year. An estimated three-quarters of those homes still have TVs, and their owners watch programming through game consoles or services like Netflix and Amazon. Starting September, Nielsen will have meters that can monitor viewership in those homes, said Brian Fuhrer, a senior vice-president at Nielsen.

The changes aren't likely to quickly boost the ratings of your favourite program, however. Most of the programs shown through broadband don't have the same encodings as shows watched traditionally, primarily because they often have different advertisements. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUNK IT, SHAKE IT & ROLL THAT RIM

THE LIST
Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 Terrence Ross. The Raptors rookie leapfrogged a ballboy before throwing down a one-handed dunk to cement his NBA all-star dunk contest title. The best part of the win? He paid homage to Vince Carter by wearing his retro Raptors Jersey for one dunk, and the ballboy was the son of Twitter CEO Dick Costolo. Ross should have live-tweeted as he was dunking.

2 Seth MacFarlane. The stuffy, formal Oscars night is loosening up with the no-holds-barred Seth (Family Guy) MacFarlane hosting the 85th Academy Awards this Sunday. The Academy Awards going edgier like the Golden Globes is a good thing. Because at the end of the day, who really cares about the boring acceptance speeches?

3 Harlem Shake. The new Gangnam Style, this Internet dance phenomenon is based on an electronic dance track by DJ Baauer. Thousands of YouTube videos are being uploaded every day of people doing it, from sports teams to office workers. And unlike Gangnam, you don't have to be a great dancer. Which means I'll be all over this meme soon.

4 Pancake Manor. This Canadian YouTube music video series for kids by Billy Reid has garnered more than nine million views. Featuring puppets that educate with high energy music and humour, it's great for entertaining and tiring your preschoolers out — and giving parents a break. Go to pancakemanor.com to discover this brave new kids' world.

5 Danica Patrick. In a historic sports achievement, Patrick became the first woman to win the pole position for the Daytona 500 — the Super Bowl of NASCAR. She beat the boys by posting a lap of 196.434 mph, and starts alongside Jeff Gordon in the Feb. 24 race. Two words for Patrick: Girl power!

6 Roll Up the Rim. Tim Hortons' latest Roll Up the Rim promotion has begun. It has become so well-known that it now makes headlines each time it starts up. And it's upped the ante for this, the 27th annual event, by including 100 pre-paid MasterCards loaded with $5,000 each among the prizes. With my luck, I'll just settle for a double-double.

7 Roberto Luongo. The Vancouver Canucks goalie may have the funniest, most self-deprecating Twitter account in sports @strombone1. He takes you inside the hockey world, poking fun at himself and others who take sport so seriously. A recent tweet said "Almost had him....." with a picture of Luongo giving up a goal he wasn't close to saving. LOL.

8 Twitter hacker club. A hamburglar hacked @burgerking's Twitter account Monday, changing the account to McDonald's profile pic. Then Tuesday, someone (reportedly the Whopper hacker) car-hacked @jeep's account, saying it had been sold to Cadillac. This was quite a lesson in password security for both companies, but they did pick up plenty of new followers with the attention.

9 The Junos. The music machine that is Canadian pop star Carly Rae Jepsen picked up more award nominations this week, this time five to lead the pack for the 2013 Juno Awards, which take place in Regina on April 21. Heck, she got more than the boy who discovered her and launched her career with a tweet, the Biebs. The whole world has her number now.

10 Big Brother Canada. From a small-town elementary teacher in Nova Scotia to a T.O. socialite to a Calgary firefighter who likes to party, the first season of Big Brother Canada has all the makings of great Canadian reality TV — and evictions. The show debuts Feb. 27 on Slice. I know I'll be tuning in to check out the hijinks.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

Terrence Ross jumps over a ball kid for his winning dunk. ERIC GAY/POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Putting their backs into it

ALEJANDRO CARTAGENA/KOPEIKIN GALLERY

Mexican carpooling

Daily commute inspires art project

For most of us, riding on the back of a pickup truck would be a once-off trip, but for construction workers in Monterrey, Mexico, it's part of a daily commute. This bird's eye view of labourers is the theme of photographer Alejandro Cartagena's project Car Poolers, exhibited at Los Angeles' Kopeikin Gallery from Feb. 23 to April 6.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Q&A with photographer

'Simple, honest, life'

How did this photo project come about?
In the summer of 2011, I started going once or twice a week to the same spot — an overpass on Monterrey's Highway 85 going southbound to San Pedro Garza Garcia — to photograph these workers on their way to work. I would stay for two hours and get just a couple of images I liked; the speed of the trucks made it difficult to get clear shots. After a year, I've arrived with around 120 good images.

How has the reaction to your photos been?
Some people in Mexico have found them humorous, others provocative, but most are very intrigued at the choice of viewpoint to portray the issue.

What issue is that?
The social and economic kind. If these guys would go on the bus route, it would be too expensive for them, since there are no proper mass low-cost transportation systems. I hope one can reflect on how people's resilience helps them maintain hope of a better life in a country filled with social, political and violent issues.

In three words, how would you describe your photos?
Simple, honest, life.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/
METRO WORLD NEWS

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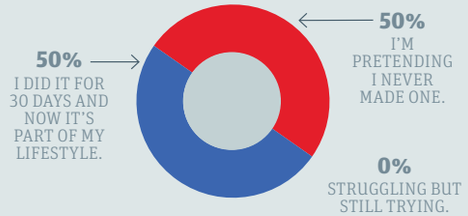
What's the status of your new year's resolution?



Twitter

@BillTieleman: Closure for BC's Kitsilano Coast Guard Station, $6 million from govt for new Newfld CG Station! #bcpoli #vanpoli

@joycemurray: Saving < $1mil, compromising safety. Murray denounces Conservative closure of Kitsilano Coast Guard Station #LPCldr

@BrentToderian: City Design Panel Endorses BIG's Mixed-Use Vancouver Tower ... via @archdaily. @BjarkeIngels is at YVR Open House today.

@ashleydalley: happiness is when your brother forgets to bring back his deep fried turkey to Vancouver and I am left to eat it all to myself #gobblegobble

@sportsnetmurph: Regardless what anyone thinks about the Hansen hit and subsequent suspension it's clear Marian Hossa was hurt on the play. #canucks

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SCENE 2

Dwayne Johnson offers to hunt down a few criminals in exchange for less jail time for his son in Snitch. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

The Rock cooks a stinker

Snitch. It's dealers vs. Dwayne Johnson in this movie, with a heavy handed look at America's War on Drugs policy

Richard: Mark, Snitch isn't a bad movie, but it is a miscast one. As charismatic as The Rock... er ... Johnson is, his physicality gets in the way. The character is a determined regular Joe willing to go to any lengths to help his son. But how much more effective would it have been if he didn't resemble a cop who could crash the drug dealers he's working with between his muscular thumb and forefinger?

Mark: I wouldn't say it was miscast, but that it was too obviously cast. Your idea of casting against type, as an everyman rather than an action hero, is a tantalizing one. I'm imagining how much more interesting a movie it would be with, say, Ryan Gosling, or even Paul Giamatti. The real question, however, is: when Susan Sarandon and Barry Pepper are support characters in a Dwayne Johnson movie, is this one of the signs of the apocalypse?

RC: Ha! I thought Pepper was OK but you could almost see Sarandon reaching for the paycheque. She has seven movies coming out this year and seems to have wedged this one in as she ran from set to set. Perhaps the movie's message that the "War on Drugs" needs to find a new plan of attack appealed to her, but she's playing this one as a character straight out of Central Casting. What did you think of Jon Bernthal as the ex-con who gives The Rock a hand. Loved him on The Walking Dead and thought he was one of the best things about this movie, even if the conclusion to his story was far fetched.

MB: Well, he was the only one in the movie who brought an element of surprise to his scenes. As far as the story goes, I liked the premise, but I thought the storytelling was kind of sloppy and sometimes it felt like scenes were missing. The violence was restrained for this kind of movie, and I'm not sure if that's a good or a bad thing. And the villains barely registered. They were mostly nasty in theory.

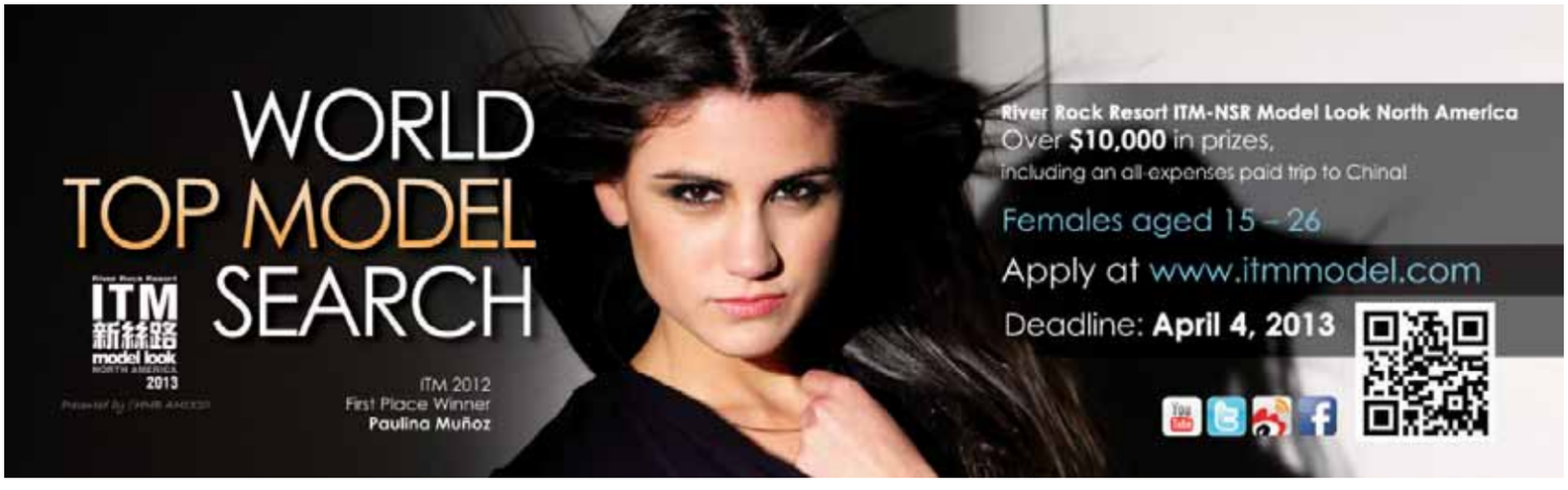
RC: I found the lack of violence refreshing. Given the name, the star and the idea you might have expected this to be a shoot 'em up, and it isn't. It's a father and son story with a twist.

MB: Finally! A drug movie for the whole family!

Synopsis

Dwayne Johnson is John Matthews, owner of a construction company and estranged father to Jason (Rafi Gavron). Jason falls into a Kafka-esque legal loophole when his drug-dealing best friend implicates him as a trafficker in return for a break on jail time. Under America's strict "War on Drugs" laws Jason is facing a mandatory 10-year sentence unless he gives up the name of a co-conspirator, but because he's innocent he has no one to snitch on. John gets the action underway when he says to the U.S. Attorney (Susan Sarandon), "What if I do it for him? What if I help you make arrests?" Cue the cage match between The Rock and drug dealers.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●●○○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Canadians in the running at this year's Academy Awards

Kim Nguyen of Montreal is nominated in the best foreign-language film category for Rebelle (War Witch). The French-language drama is a harrowing look at the lives of child soldiers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nguyen penned the story over the course of a decade and shot it in Congo with a cast that included several local first-time actors.

Montreal's Kim Nguyen is nominated in the best foreign language film category for Rebelle. HANDOUT

Toronto composer Mychael Danna is up for best original score and best original song for Life of Pi. Danna spent nearly a year working on the score for the film, based on the Booker-winning novel by Yann Martel. Danna had previously collaborated with Pi director Ang Lee on 1997's The Ice Storm and 1999's Ride with the Devil.

Yan England of Montreal is nominated for best live-action short for Henry, about an elderly pianist. England has said it's a tribute to his late grandfather, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. The filmmaker has been acting in English and French since he was eight and financed Henry out of his own pocket.

Toronto-bred producer Mino Jarjoura is up for best live-action short for Asad, about a Somalian boy torn between life as a budding fisherman and the temptation to become a pirate. Jarjoura says he and director Bryan Buckley wanted to capture the indomitable spirit of Somalian people, which they discovered while making a short documentary for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2010.

Montreal-based producer Ariel Nasr is up for best live-action short film for Buzhkashi Boys, about two Afghan boys who long to professionally play the country's brutal horse-polo sport. It was shot in Kabul in February 2011 and produced through the non-profit Afghan Film Project.

Jim Erickson of Salt Spring Island, B.C., is in the running for best production design for Lincoln. He was previously nominated for There Will Be Blood. After 30 years working in Hollywood, Erickson has said he's now ready to retire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Exclusively online

- Metro's own Ned Ehrbar will chronicle the highs and lows of the Academy Awards on Sunday night. You can follow along at metronews.ca or on Twitter with **@nedrick**
- Follow Dorothy Robinson's red carpet fashion critiques **@dorothyatmetro**

Rating the hosts

The choice of Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane may seem like yet another attempt by the older-skewing Oscars to appeal to the kids, but he actually has a surprising tendency toward Old Hollywood style. At parties thrown at his house, MacFarlane is even known to sing standards backed by a big band. While the jury's still out on MacFarlane's performance, we thought we'd see what he has to measure up to from the last few years' Awards.

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

2009: Hugh Jackman

The Australian charmer — who happens to be a nominee for best actor this year — turned in the hosting performance to beat the year Slumdog Millionaire won. His opening song-and-dance number was the standout, but Broadway veteran Jackman proved he's an all-around talent.

2010: Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin

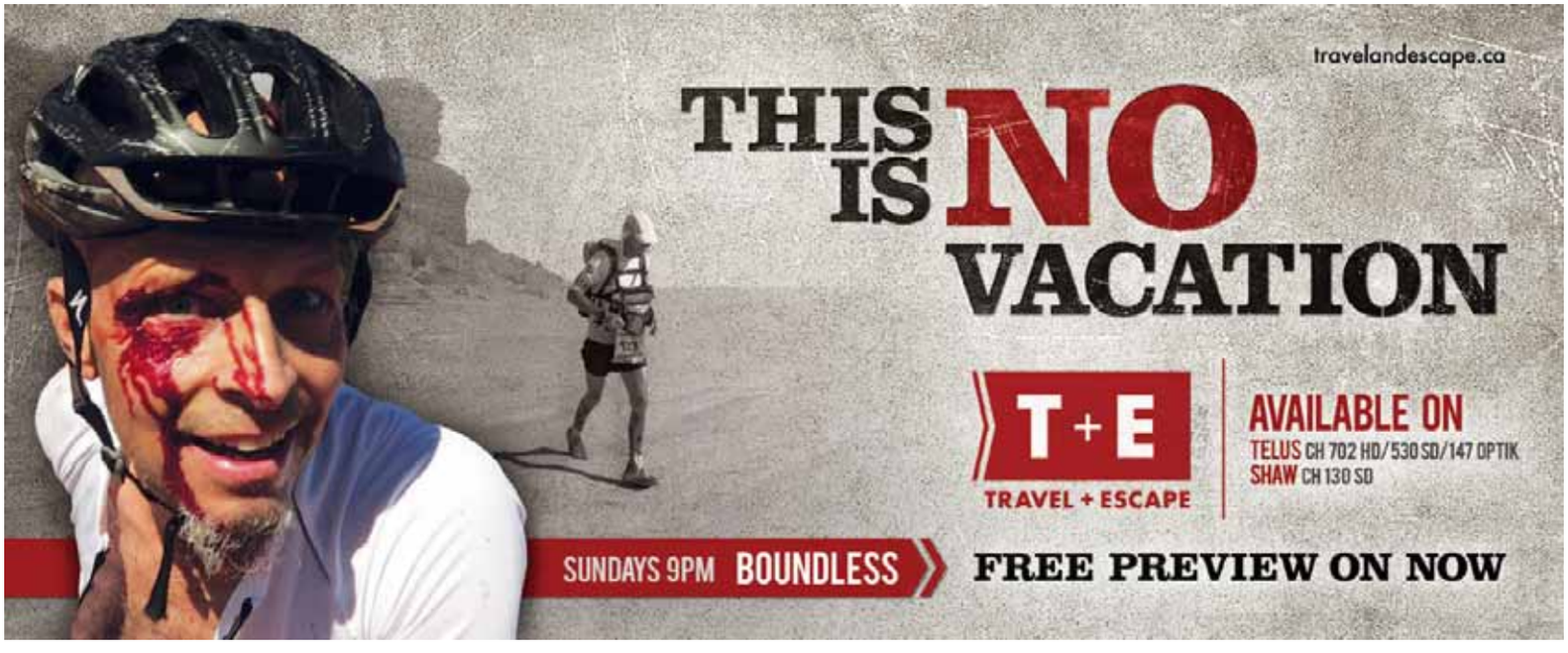
The likeable comic actors relied heavily on their own charm, but it wasn't enough to save the show. With stale jokes and awkward delivery, their performance felt too much like an ad for their equally disappointing 2009 film It's Complicated.

2011: James Franco and Anne Hathaway

As we remarked during this train wreck, "Apparently there is something James Franco can't do." This brazen attempt at pulling in younger viewers turned out to be a disaster, with current nominee Hathaway seemingly abandoned by Franco, who seemed to have — wisely — given up on the endeavor before it began.

2012: Billy Crystal

After the Franco/Hathaway disaster, the Academy went back to standby Crystal, who hosted his ninth Oscars. But the funnyman's schtick maybe went too old-fashioned, as his bits were generally panned as hokey and out of touch. Case in point: while many in that precious younger demographic might not necessarily know Crystal was dressing up as Sammy Davis Jr. in one bit, they do know what blackface is.



Documentary

West of Memphis

Director. Amy Berg

Stars. Jason Baldwin, Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley

The bulk of the movie is comprised of the 17-year fight to prove the innocence of the West Memphis Three, three teens convicted on dubious evidence in 1994 of the murder of three young boys. But compelling though the story may be, the Alford Plea that earned them release from prison on the proviso they plead guilty feels like justice, once again, was not served. Real life doesn't always work out the way we want and neither do documentaries. As a result, West of Memphis is interesting, but ultimately unsatisfying.

RICHARD CROUSE

Thriller

Dark Skies

Director. Scott Stewart

Stars. Keri Russell, Josh Hamilton

Freaky happenings abound in Dark Skies — a supernatural thriller about a young family that suddenly begins experiencing such disturbing events as unexplained nose bleeds and 800 birds inexplicably flying into their house. But the teeth really begin gnashing when the Barrett clan suspects the work of aliens. A loose ending may put off conventional moviegoers but filmmaker Scott Stewart crafts a pretty creepy story — even if it jumps a bit of logic.

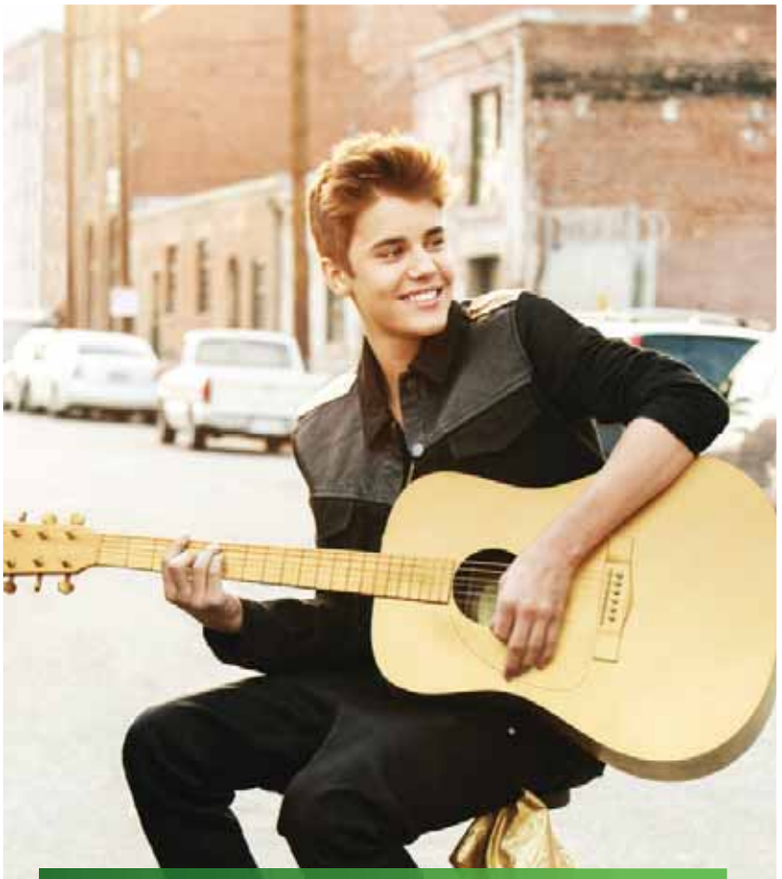
STEVE GOW

Just a human story...

"It's really just a smart story about people trying to get by, which is what I always look for...

"I'm pretty sure I've never done a horror film kind of thing. It's not a genre that ever appealed to me but this has so many other elements to it and at the end of the day it's just a very human story about this family."

Actor J.K. Simmons on his foray into horror films with his role in the new film Dark Skies
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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2. Upload your photos by visiting www.clubmetro.com/Justin
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Scared Scriptless
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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB.22 TO THURS., FEB. 28. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Dunbar Theatre
4555 Dunbar Street

A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-4:15-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street

Amour (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:40-9:15
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-6:50-9:25
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:20-9:45
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7-9:35
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:15 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:10

Pacific Cinémathèque
1131 Howe Street

Best of Ottawa 2012 (STC) Wed-Thu 7
Crazy Horse (STC) Fri 8:15 Sat 6:30 Sun 8:15 Mon 6:30
Detropia (STC) Fri 6:30 Sat 9 Sun 6:30 Mon 9
The Illusionist (STC) Wed-Thu 8:20
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue

Park Theatre
3440 Cambie Street

Quartet (PG) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 2-4-7-9 Mon-Wed 4-7-9 Thu 4-7

Rio on Broadway
1660 E. Broadway

A Glimpse Inside the Mind of Charles Swan III (PG) Mon 9:30 Thu 7
Megaforce (STC) Thu 9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Sun Wed
Secretary (STC) Fri 11
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Mon-Tue 7

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver
900 Burrard St.

Django Unchained (14A) Fri 12-3:25-7-10:40 Sat 10:15-11:50-3:20-7-10:40 Sun 11:50-3:20-6:50-10:20 Mon 1:40-5:20-9:05 Tue 12-3:25-7-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:40-5:20-9:05
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri 2-4:40-7:15-9:45 No Passes Sat 11:40-2-4:40-7:15-9:45 No Passes Sun 2-4:40-7:15-9:45 No Passes Mon 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:50 No Passes Tue 2-4:40-7:15-9:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:50 No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:30 No Passes Mon 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:30 No Passes Tue 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:30 No Passes Wed 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:30 No Passes Thu 2:35-5:10-7:35
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Sat 10:05 Sun-Mon 9:50 Tue 10:05 Wed-Thu 9:50
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 12:10-1:50-2:50-4:30-5:30-7:15-8:05-10:45 Sat 1:50-2:50-4:30-5:30-7:15-8:05-10:45 Sun 11:50-1:50-2:20-4:30-5-7:15-7:35-10:15 Mon 1:40-4:15-7-7:30-10:20 Tue 1:50-4:30-5:30-7:15-8:05-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:40-2-4:15-4:50-7-7:30-10:20
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1-4-6:50-10 Sat 10:10-1-4-6:50-10 Sun 1-4-6:50-9:45 Mon 1:05-4:50-6:50 Tue-Thu 1-4-6:50-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Sat 9:55 Mon 6:30
Snitch (PG) Fri 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Sat 10:05-12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon 1-3:40-7:40-10:30 Tue 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Wed-Thu 1-4:20-7:40-10:30
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sat 10-12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon 1:30-4:05-7:15-10:10 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Wed 1:30-4:05-10:10 Thu 1:30-4:05-7:15-10:10
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:55-10:25 Mon 3:30-10:25 Tue 12:10-3:30-6:55-10:25 Wed-Thu 3:30-6:55-10:25

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street

Blancanieves (STC) Fri 7
The Double Steps (STC) Sun 8:30 Wed 6:30
Madrid, 1987 (STC) Sat 7 Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Sleep Tight (STC) Sat 9 Thu 9
Soundtrack for a Revolution (PG) Mon 7
Wilaya (STC) Sun 6:30 Wed 8:20

Esplanade 6
200 West Esplanade

Amour (PG) , , Sub-Titled Fri 6:30-9:35 , , Sub-Titled Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:35 , , Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 6:30-9:35
Beautiful Creatures (PG) , Fri 6:40-9:20 , Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:20 , Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20 Django Unchained (14A) , Fri 7:45 , Sat-Sun 4-7:45 , Mon-Thu 7:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) , Sat-Sun 12:20
Safe Haven (PG) , Fri 7:10-9:45 , Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:10-9:45 , Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) , Fri 6:50-9:30 , Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:30 , Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
Warm Bodies (PG) , Fri 7-9:40 , Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-7-9:40 , Mon-Thu 7-9:40

Park & Tilford
333 Brooksbank Ave.

Dark Skies (14A) Fri 7:30-10 Sat 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Sun 2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 7:30-10
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri 7:15-9:35 Sat 12-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:35 Sun 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri 7:25-9:50 No Passes Sat 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:25-9:50 No Passes Sun 2:20-4:50-7:25-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:20-9:50
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 7:35-10:15 Sat-Sun 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:25-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:05-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Quartet (PG) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat 4:40-7:20-9:45 Sun 2:10-4:40-7:20-9:45 Mon-Wed 7:10-9:35 Thu 7:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

SilverCity Riverport
14211 Entertainment Way

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:15
Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:25
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 11:40-3:15-6:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 2-5:55-9:40
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri 12:15-2:35-5-7:30-9:50 Sat 11:20-12:15-2:35-5-7:30-9:50 Sun 12:15-2:35-5-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:35-3-5:15-7:30-9:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 No Passes Mon-Wed 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 No Passes Thu 10 No Passes Thu 2:15-4:45-7:15
A Good Day to Die Hard: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri 10:10 Sat 10:35 Sun 10:10 Mon-Wed 10:05
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45 Mon-Thu 1:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 5:40-9:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 12-1:50-2:35-4:30-5:15-7:15-8-10:45 Sat 12-2:15-2:35-4:55-5:15-7:40-8-10:45 Sun 12-1:50-2:35-4:30-5:15-7:15-8-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:50-2:30-4:30-5:10-7:15-7:50-10:30
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Jack the Giant Slayer: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1-3:55-7-10 Sat 10:10-1-3:55-7-10 Sun-Thu 1-3:55-7-10
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:40-7-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:15-5:50-9:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Sat 9:35
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45-3:10-6:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:10-5:45-9:30
Quartet (PG) Fri 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Sat 10:10-12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Sun 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:40-5:25-8:05-10:45 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:30-7:20-10:10 Thu 4:30-7:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Scooby-Doo (G) Sat 11
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:50 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:10-10
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:25
Snitch (PG) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:50-7:40-10:20
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-2:55-5:25-8:05-10:40 Mon-Wed 12:35-3:05-5:30-7:55-10:20 Thu 3:20-5:45-8:10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sun 12-3:25-6:55-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:25-6:10-9:50

Dolphin Cinemas
4555 E. Hastings St.

Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri-Sun 1-3-5-7-8:55 Mon-Thu 5-7-8:55
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-3:15-5:15-7:15-9:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:15-7:15-9:15

SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave.

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:40-7:40-10:30 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:45
Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3-5:35-8-10:25 Sun 12:30-2:55-5:15-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:55-5:15-7:40-10:10
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:45 Sat 12:25-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:45 Sun 12:35-2:50-5:05-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 2:50-5:05-7:20-9:40
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri 2:15-4:50-7:25-9:50 No Passes Sat 11:50-2:15-4:50-7:25-9:50 No Passes Sun-Thu 2-4:25-6:50-9:25 No Passes
Fri-Sat 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:55-10:20 No Passes Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20-7:45-10:05 No Passes Mon-Wed 2:45-5:20-7:45-10:05 No Passes Thu 2:45-5:20-7:45
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:05-5:20-7:45-10:15 Sun 12:20-2:30-4:50-7:10-9:30 Mon 2:30-7:10-9:30 Tue-Thu 2:30-4:50-7:10-9:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 12-2:35-5:25-8:05-10:40 Sat 11:45-2:35-5:25-8:05-10:40 Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:55-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:55-10:30
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Safe Haven (PG) Fri 2:20-5:05-7:50-10:35 Sat 11:40-2:20-5:05-7:50-10:35 Sun-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:15-10
Scooby-Doo (G) Sat 11
Snitch (PG) Fri 12:10-2:45-5:30-8:10-10:45 Sat 12-2:45-5:30-8:10-10:45 Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:50-10:25
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri 12:05-2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Sat 11:15-2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Sun 12:50-3:15-5:35-8-10:20 Mon 1:30-3:55-4:45 Tue-Thu 3:15-5:35-8-10:20

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:35 Mon 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:20 Tue 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:35 Wed 4:40-7:30-10:20 Thu 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:20 Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:15-9:10 Mon 3:30-6:20-9:10 Tue 12:20-3:20-6:15-9:10 Wed 3:30-6:20-9:10 Thu 4:30-7:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Berlin File (14A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:50-7:45-10:35
Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4:45-8:30 Mon 1:10-4:45-8:30 Tue 1-4:45-8:30 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:45-8:30
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:35-5-7:25-9:50 Mon 2:35-5-7:25-9:50 Tue 12:10-2:35-5-7:25-9:50 Wed-Thu 2:35-5-7:25-9:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:15 No Passes Mon 4:40-7:20-10:10 No Passes Tue 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:15 No Passes Wed 4:40-7:20-10:10 No Passes Thu 9:45 No Passes Fri-Sun 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:45 No Passes Mon 2:50-5:20-7:55-10:25 No Passes Tue 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:45 No Passes Wed 2:50-5:20-7:55-10:25 No Passes Thu 4:50-7:20-10:10 No Passes Thu 2:35-5:05-7:35
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10 Sat 11-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10 Mon 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:05 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:05 Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:30-9:30 Mon 3:50-6:40-9:30 Tue 12:45-3:45-6:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:30
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10:30 No Passes Thu 10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:20-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Quartet (PG) Fri 1:45-4:20-6:50-9:20 Sat 11:20-1:45-4:20-6:50-9:20 Sun-Wed 1:45-4:20-6:50-9:20 Thu 1:45-4:20-6:50
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:20-7:15-10:05 Wed 4:20-7:15-10:05 Thu 1:25-4:20-7:15-10:05 Fri-Sun 2-5-8-10:45 Mon 5-7:45-10:30 Tue 2-5-8-10:45 Wed 5-7:45-10:30 Thu 3:30-6:25-9:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Scooby-Doo (G) Sat 11
Side Effects (14A) Fri 12:05-2:45-5:20-8:05-10:40 Sat 2:45-5:20-8:05-10:40 Sun 12:05-2:45-5:20-8:05-10:40 Mon 2:45-5:20-8:05-10:40 Tue 12:05-2:45-5:20-8:05-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:45-5:20-8:05-10:40
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:15 Sat 11:10-1:15-4:10-7:10-10:15 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:15
Snitch (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Mon 2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Tue 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:55 Mon 4:10-7-9:50 Tue 1:10-4:10-7-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:10-7-9:50
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:35-8-10:45 Mon 2:15-4:50-7:15-9:35 Tue 12:30-3-5:35-8-10:45 Wed-Thu 2:15-4:50-7:15-9:35
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7-10:25 Mon 2:30-6-9:25 Tue 12-3:30-7-10:25 Wed-Thu 2:30-6-9:25

Clova
5732-176th St., Surrey

Life of Pi (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

Argo (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 1-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Thu 8:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 6:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Sat-Sun 1
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 8:35
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Thu 8:55
Rise of the Guardians (G) Sat-Sun 3:30
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 4:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:40 Mon-Thu 4:40
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Thu 4:30
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Sat-Sun 2:30
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Thu 5:30

Strawberry Hill Grande 12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon 2:40-5:30-8-10:25 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:30-8-10:25
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30-5-7:30-9:50 Mon 2:25-5-7:30-9:50 Tue 12:15-2:30-5-7:30-9:50 Wed-Thu 2:25-5-7:30-9:50
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:25 Tue 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:45-5:20-7:55-10:25
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:15-8:05-10:45 Mon 2:30-5:15-8:05-10:40 Tue 12-2:35-5:15-8:05-10:45 Wed 5:15-8:05-10:40 Thu 2:30-5:15-8:05-10:40
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Thu 10
Kai po che! (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10:15
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10
Love Story of Singh vs Kaur (PG) Fri-Thu 2-5:30-9
Murder 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:15-10:05
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:45 Mon 2:15-5:25-7:55-10:30 Tue 12-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:45 Wed 5:25-7:55-10:30 Thu 2:15-5:25-7:55-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Scooby-Doo (G) Sat 11
Snitch (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Mon 2:35-5:10-7:50-10:35 Tue 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:50-10:35
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Mon 3-5:30-8-10:30 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Wed-Thu 3-5:30-8-10:30

Studio 12 Guildford 15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4-6:50-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5:10-8:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4-6:50-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5:10-8:10
Dark Skies (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 3:55-7:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:15-3:55-7:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 6-8:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 3:55-7:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 6-8:30
Escape From Planet Earth (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 7 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:50-7 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 7 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Sun 4:20-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:20-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 7:30
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4:10-4:50-6:40-7:30-9:10-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:30-2:10-4:10-4:50-6:40-7:30-9:10-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5:05-5:30-7:30-8 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:10-4:50-6:40-7:30-9:10-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5:05-5:30-7:30-8
Identity Thief (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4:30-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5:35-8:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:30-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5:35-8:15
Safe Haven (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 3:45-6:25-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:05-3:45-6:25-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5:25-8:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 3:45-6:25-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5:25-8:05
Singh vs Kaur (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:20-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 3:05-6:20-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 7:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 6:20-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 7:15
Snitch (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4:35-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:10-4:35-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5:15-7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:35-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5:15-7:45
Special 26 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Sun 6:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 6:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5:45
Warm Bodies (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4:40-7:05-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:05-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 5:15-7:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:40-7:05-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 5:15-7:40
Zila Ghaziabad (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:20-6-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 6-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 7:45

Rialto 1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterion-theatres.com

Quartet (PG) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
Side Effects (14A) Fri 7:10-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-7:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15

Criterion 4 White Rock 2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterion-theatres.com

Escape From Planet Earth (G) Fri 7:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:20
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:35
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
Safe Haven (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25

Colossus Langley 20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:35 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:25-10:25 Wed 7:25-10:25 Thu 4:20-7:25-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Dark Skies (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:45-10:20
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-5:20-9 Mon-Thu 4-7:45
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (G) Fri 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sat 11:05-12:10-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sun 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:15-9:40
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-6-8:30-11 Mon-Wed 5-8-10:30 Thu 10 Thu 4-7
A Good Day to Die Hard: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Wed 4:30-7:30-10 Thu 4:30-7:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:40-10:05
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 2:55-6:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-1:50-2:40-4:30-5:15-7:15-7:55-10-10:50 Mon 4-4:40-7:30-10:10 Tue-Wed 4:10-4:40-7:30-9:45-10:10 Thu 4:10-4:40-7:7:30-10:10
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Thu 10
Jack the Giant Slayer: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Thu 10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-4:15-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:45-7:05-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:55
Quartet (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:35-5-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:55-9:40
Safe Haven (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05-10:15
Scooby-Doo (G) Sat 11
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:20-8:10-10:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:15-10:10
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20-10:25
Snitch (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:25-10:30
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-2:55-5:35-8:05-10:35 Mon-Tue 4:45-7:20-9:55 Wed 7:20-9:55 Thu 4:45-7:20-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:40-7-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-8:15

Twilight Drive-In 260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

Mama (14A) Fri-Sun 9:15
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Thu
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sun 7:30

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Rihanna and Chris Brown

They found love in a hopeless place?

So much for those breakup rumours. Rihanna is celebrating her 25th birthday this week by escaping to Hawaii with Chris Brown by her side. The birthday girl posted a photo to Instagram of her smiling self perched on Brown's lap in the back of a limo.

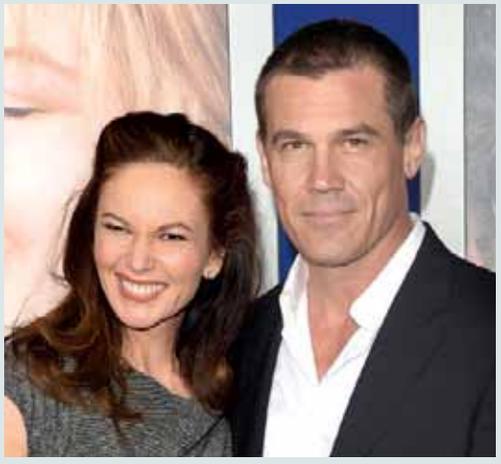
They were also spotted seaside in Honolulu, according to E! News. "Chris was leading Rihanna by the hand," a source says of their brief beach walk. "She was puffing on something as she walked and seemed very relaxed and happy. Her hair was blowing and she twirled around. She looked totally free and like she was really enjoying her birthday. Chris was protective and made sure to hold her hand as they walked."

Quoted

"She looked totally free and like she was really enjoying her birthday."

Rihanna was glowing, a source says

The Word



Diane Lane and Josh Brolin to divorce

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

After eight years of marriage, Diane Lane and Josh Brolin are over.

A representative for the couple released this curt announcement to Us Weekly: "Diane Lane and Josh Brolin have decided to end their marriage. It was a mutual decision. It is very amicable. It's not ugly, it's just over."

The couple have no children.

What was it, Diane? Was it when he was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery in 2004? Or the two public intoxication charges, one in 2008 and the latest on New Year's Day in Santa Monica? Did you just have enough of the Brolin drunk charm?

And if Brolin's rage issues were that bad when you were "happily married," what in the world will happen when he's drowning his sorrows over the split? If I were the owner of his nearby dive bar, I'd lock my doors.

Shia LaBeouf ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The LaBeouf rebuff

Shia LaBeouf has exited what would have been his Broadway debut — in a revival of Orphans alongside Alec Baldwin — less than a month before previews were to begin, but there's been plenty of drama since he quit.

LaBeouf, who is rather new to Twitter, decided to use the social-networking site to publish emails between himself, Baldwin, director Daniel Sullivan and co-star Tom Sturridge that all suggest some sort of squabble between LaBeouf and Baldwin that precipitated his exit. "I'm too old for disagreeable situations," Sullivan writes in an email to LaBeouf. "You're one hell of a great actor. Alec is who he is. You are who you are. You two are incompatible. I should have known it. This one will haunt me. You tried to warn me. You said you were a different breed. I didn't get it."

Twitter

@JuddApatow
Beasts of the Southern Wild is the only movie I have felt the need to watch multiple times this year. That and Stories We Tell.

@rosemcgowan
My nurse is terrifying. I actually need a pain pill, but I'm too scared to ask. #andihatepills

@johncusack
Enough of these silly jousting games I play -I grow weary

@bobsaget
Watched Lincoln on the movie thing on the plane~ the flight was five minutes shorter than the film. Missed the ending. I'm rooting for him.

Party bites worthy of an Academy Award

Canapes may sound stuffy, but they actually are the ultimate in ease when it comes to party food. Plus, they look great and can be combined in endless ways to suit any taste.

So here is simple formula for making canapes: divide them into four components — bases, spreads, toppings and garnishes. For each canape, all you do is select one item from each category, then assemble. And the easiest way to assemble enough for a party is to set out all of your ingredients (clustered by category), then just start selecting and building.

If you're planning on an Oscars viewing party, you might even consider turning the making of the canapes into a pre-party. Set out everything on the counter, pour some wine and invite a few guests to come early and help assemble (and sample, of course).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Each spread recipe makes enough to top 24 canapes. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bases

- 24 multigrain crackers
- 24 thin slices of seedless cucumber
- 24 toasted baguette slices
- 24 purchased phyllo cups (found in the grocer's freezer section)

Spreads

Zesty Barbecue
- 3 tbsp barbecue sauce
- 2 tbsp red pepper jelly
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- Splash of hot sauce

1. In bowl, stir ingredients.

Orange Sweet Potato
- 1 sweet potato, microwaved until fork-tender
- 2 tbsp orange marmalade
- 1 tbsp cider vinegar
- Salt, black pepper

1. Peel potato and mash in bowl. Stir in marmalade and vinegar. Season with salt and pepper.

Toppers

- Small cooked and peeled shrimp
- Shredded cooked chicken
- Halved cherry tomatoes
- Crab meat
- Small wedges of manchego cheese

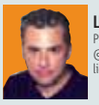
Garnishes

- Shaved Parmesan cheese
- Sliced green and black olives
- Sliced hot peppers (such as piri piri or Peppadew)
- Sliced scallions

To assemble the canapes, arrange the bases on a large serving tray. Top each with a small dollop of one of the spreads. Press one of the topping choices into the spread, then finish each with a garnish.

Liquid Assets

And the best drink goes to...



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

With the Oscar's awarded this Sunday, here are my picks for the right booze to match with each of the best picture nominees.

Les Misérables
Victor Hugo was French, loved Paris, and Paris loves the wines of Bordeaux. Go Right Bank, where merlot rules and the wines are softer and easier drinking.

Zero Dark Thirty
Osama bin Laden may have abstained, but his American hunters probably enjoyed a shot of Bourbon. Try a robust, single barrel version.

Life of Pi
I'd go with a sweeter white riesling from Germany. It likes pie.

Django Unchained
This spaghetti western, à la Tarantino, deserves a nice Italian red made with the sangiovese grape from Tuscany's Chianti region.

Lincoln
Daniel Day-Lewis is a Brit, and Lincoln had more than enough reasons to take a drink. Together they make a strong case for a full-bodied English (or U.S.) ale.

Argo
Though it's sour grapes for the Academy for leaving its helmsman off the best director list, I'm betting Ben Affleck will be drinking some bubbly, like Moët & Chandon's non-vintage Brut Imperial champagne ($60.75 to $65), when his flick wins best picture.

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- WAKE AND SHAKE *(Morning Lessons, 19+)*

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Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca.
To get even more info on these Notable happenings make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/Feb22

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Winterruption at Granville Island

The eighth annual Vancouver Winter Festival is back and ready to take over Granville Island. Savour French food and wine tastings, go on a Sustainable Seafood Walking Tour and take in a cooking demo. Check out Juste Pour Rire standup comedy, artists and performers, and explore the island's locally-made art, visit studios and take in [ART] ifacts: The Granville Island Story. Fuel up at the new Street Eats & Beats that features top food trucks and live DJ beats. 1661 Duranleau Street granvilleisland.com/winterruption.

2013 Talking Stick Festival

On until March 3, explore aboriginal culture through arts at this year's 12th annual Talking Stick Festival's citywide array of events that provide a stage for Aboriginal artists through a variety of expressions. This year's festival features performances, workshops and artist talks at various venues throughout the city. Learn about the rich tapestry of First Nations culture through dance, storytelling and music — in both a contemporary and entertaining way.

Worth Checking Out: Colony Kitsilano

Having just opened, be sure to check out this bound-to-be hot spot in Kitsilano. With 100 seats, plenty of tasty $10 and under items on the menu, a fully-stocked bar (featuring 10 on-tap beers in rotation), DJs and laid-back atmosphere, it's the perfect place to land post-work (or anytime). What's more, sun-loving Vancouverites can rejoice at the fact that, come spring, they'll also be opening their patio. 3255 West Broadway. colonykits.com.

Screening: Crazy8s Film Festival

Crazy8s is Vancouver's longest running and most prestigious short film-making competition, with more than 100 aspiring filmmakers pitching their ideas for a chance to win money and the opportunity to make their film in eight days flat. View the winning films at the Crazy8s Gala Screening & Party held on Saturday at The Centre for the Performing Arts and then go to the after party taking place at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Saturday at 777 Homer St. crazy8s.cc.

Coming up: Vancouver International Wine Festival

Be sure to jump online and grab tickets for this year's wine festival that features more than 760 different wines and 175 different wineries from around the world. Now celebrating 35 years of wine-savvy celebrations, the festival has no shortage of offerings. With various gala tastings, tutored seminars, casual minglers and other parties set to take over the city, it is one event you don't want to miss. Monday Feb. 25 to Sunday March 3. vanwinefest.ca.

2013 Chutzpah! Festival

If you haven't already had a chance to catch Chutzpah! The Lisa Nemetz International Showcase of Jewish Performing Arts, don't wait any longer. Now celebrating 13 years, Chutzpah! is a fantastic mix of stunning dance, hilarious comedy, live music and film fused with other award-winning theatrical performances guaranteed to awe and inspire. There are plenty of events left to pick from, with a wide range in pricing (or choose four for $78). On until Sunday March 3 at various venues. chutzpahfestival.com.

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CFL

Lions in running to host 2014 Grey Cup

The B.C. Lions have submitted a bid to host the 2014 Grey Cup at BC Place Stadium, the Canadian Football League has confirmed.

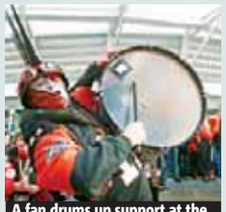
The possibility of the CFL championship game coming back to Vancouver next year — it was held here in 2011 — was first reported on the Business in Vancouver Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the Lions said a decision as to which city will host the 2014 Grey Cup should come from the CFL in three or four weeks.

B.C. Pavilion Corporation (PavCo), a provincial crown corporation, said in its recently released service plan that it "will continue to aggressively solicit new and returning events to fill BC Place."

Further down in the report, $2.7 million has been singled out for "contributions for Grey Cup" under the Fiscal 2012-13 Forecast.

The Lions won the 2011 Grey Cup championship thanks to a 34-23 victory over the Winnipeg Blues Bombers before a crowd of 54,313 fans at the revamped BC Place, which underwent $514 million worth of renovations at the expense of provincial taxpayers. CAM TUCKER/METRO



A fan drums up support at the 99th Grey Cup on Nov. 27, 2011, in Vancouver. GETTY IMAGES FILE

NHL

Burke returns to Ducks as scout

Brian Burke joined the Anaheim Ducks as a part-time scout on Thursday, a little over a month after he was fired as president and general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Burke returns to the Ducks where he was executive vice-president and GM from 2005-08. The Ducks won their first Stanley Cup in 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brian Burke THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Canucks defenceman Kevin Bieksa gets past Philip Larsen of the Dallas Stars on Thursday in Dallas. Bieksa scored on the play and the Canucks went on to win 4-3. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Canucks snap out of three-game funk

NHL. After losing trio of matches by the score 4-3, Vancouver turns the tables against Stars

The Vancouver Canucks used a third-period rally to stop their losing streak.

Jason Garrison and Henrik Sedin scored third-period goals to help the Canucks overcome a 2-1 second-period deficit en route to a 4-3 victory over the Dallas Stars on Thursday.

Alex Burrows and Kevin Bieksa also scored for the Canucks, who ended a three-game losing streak (0-1-2), including a 4-3 decision to the Stars in which they squandered a 3-1 lead in Vancouver on Feb. 15.

"I think it was important for our team to put together a better two-way effort and I thought we did that tonight," Canucks coach Alain Vigneault said. "Even though we started off on our heels a little bit, I thought the guys responded after that."

And despite giving up the first goal just 35 seconds into the game, Cory Schneider bounced back and made 22 saves for the win.

"It's never good to give up a goal in the first minute of the game, so it was good to show some resilience and we didn't crack under that," Schneider said. "It was nice to sort of return the favour and come back on them a couple of times in their building."

Jamie Benn, Michael Ryder and Brenden Morrow scored for Dallas, which lost for the third time in its past four games.

"I thought that we had chances to get ahead and maybe stay ahead, but we didn't convert," Dallas coach Glen Gulutzan said. "But overall, I thought that our work ethic was strong tonight and we improved certainly some of the things we've had for a couple of days in practice, but it's a result-based business and we didn't get the result."

On Thursday

Canucks	Stars
4	3

Cristopher Nilstorp, who was recalled from AHL Texas on Sunday, stopped 18 shots.

"I think we played a really good game. The guys battled hard," said Nilstorp, who is 0-3-0 in his first three NHL starts. "This is a game where you deserved points, but this is hockey and sometimes you play well but you don't get the points, and this is one of those games. It's kind of frustrating."

The Canucks broke a 2-2 tie by scoring twice within a 1:46 span early in the third period.

Garrison snapped the tie at 2:32 when his slap shot from the left point beat a screened Nilstorp over the blocker for his second goal of the season, giving the Canucks their first lead of the game.

Henrik Sedin got his second of the season at 4:18, completing a pretty passing play with Burrows on a 2-on-1 rush with an easy tap-in into an open net to make it 4-2.

Dallas pulled within one at 6:07 of the third, when Morrow stripped the puck off Ryan Kesler's stick in front of the Canucks' goal and quickly swept it past Schneider for his fourth goal.

"Obviously that was a tough bounce on that last one, it's completely my fault," said Kesler, who had two assists. "Bad bounce, bad luck, whatever you want to chalk it up to, but I'll take credit for that one. I told Schneids that one's on me."

The Stars had a late power-play opportunity when Bieksa was whistled for interference at 14:51, but Dallas was unable to muster a shot on goal during the advantage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hansen suspension

Hossa skates in Chicago

Jannik Hansen didn't play Thursday for the Canucks thanks to a one-game suspension for a forearm to the head of Blackhawks forward Marian Hossa on Tuesday night.

But the chatter about the NHL's decision Wednesday to suspend Vancouver's right winger continued Thursday, when Hossa took part in Chicago's practice.

Hossa, who sustained a severe concussion last spring on an illegal Raffi Torres hit, had this to say to the Chicago Tribune: "I'm glad (he got) at least one game," he said of the Hansen ban.

"Hopefully, guys will learn from it. He said he was reaching for the puck. I don't buy it because when you reach for the puck you don't hit somebody that hard to the head."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

4 SPORTS

Nigel Reo-Coker with Ipswich last November in London. TOM SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Whitecaps add EPL veteran Reo-Coker

MLS. Rennie 'pleased with where the squad is' after latest signing

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The process to bring Nigel Reo-Coker to the Vancouver Whitecaps wasn't easy, based on the comments of head coach Martin Rennie, but the local Major League Soccer side can rest a little easier now.

The Whitecaps on Thursday officially added the English Premier League veteran of more than 200 games, although the deal was initially reported by Prost Amerika on Wednesday.

The Portland Timbers, Vancouver's most southerly Cascadia Cup rival, originally had the discovery rights to Reo-Coker; however, the Whitecaps obtained right to first refusal for the defender-midfielder in exchange for a second-round pick in the 2014 MLS SuperDraft and a second-round pick in the 2015 MLS SuperDraft.

The terms of the agreement between the Whitecaps and Reo-Coker were not disclosed.

"I think with most recruitment and transfers, it always takes quite a bit of work and a lot of work goes on behind the scenes that people don't really see," said Rennie during a conference call Thursday.

"And this one was no different."

The Whitecaps pick up Reo-Coker at the age of 28. He's captained West Ham United FC, Aston Villa, and Bolton Wanderers in the Premier League and is recently coming off a three-month stint with Ipswich Town FC in the English Championship.

"He still believes, and I still believe, he's not hit his peak yet," said Rennie.

"And time will tell if that's true or not."

The Whitecaps are currently in Charleston, S.C., where they will close out the exhibition season this weekend.

Reo-Coker is expected to join his new teammates for training Friday.

Rennie said Reo-Coker is "fairly fit" but added it "might be a little bit soon" to get him in Saturday's exhibition match against the Chicago Fire.

This announcement comes two days after the club officially added 23-year-old Honduran defender Johnny Leveron.

That only added to a centre back corps that already included Jay DeMerit, Andy O'Brien and Brad Rusin.

In Reo-Coker, the Whitecaps get a versatile player who can be used as a right back or central midfielder.

The Whitecaps could have as many as nine defenders on the squad when the regular season begins.

"I'm pleased with where the squad is," said Rennie.

Quoted

"I think with Nigel joining it we do have a well-rounded squad and we do have options."

Whitecaps head coach Martin Rennie

Cyberbullying part of the game

Vancouver tennis player Rebecca Marino's revelations that she's been bullied via social media has shone a light on how professional athletes react to what's said about them on Twitter and Facebook.

Marino said Wednesday she felt overwhelmed at times by barbs directed at her following a loss.

"The hurtful ones kind of stick with you a little bit more," Marino told reporters Wednesday during a conference call. "I was getting some messages saying I should go die, that I should go burn in hell, that I'm a dumb-ass, that I'm an idiot, that I lost them money.

"Social media is actually a really important part of our society and there can be a lot of good that comes out of it. I don't want to discredit social media. Personally, I find it can be quite distracting."

The 22-year-old from Vancouver announced Wednesday that she's stepping away from tennis, but that cyberbullying was not the primary reason.

Vancouver's Rebecca Marino stepped away from tennis on Wednesday. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES FILE

A loss of passion for the pro tour and recent struggles with depression are the reasons, though Marino did say she's ignoring social media for now.

Many professional athletes have large numbers of opinionated followers on social media. Their actions in and out of their respective games are dissected on Internet chat rooms and message boards.

Toronto Maple Leafs forward Joffrey Lupul, who has almost 165,000 followers on Twitter, says it's important to keep perspective and have a thick skin when he scrolls through comments.

"You've got to realize there's millions, probably billions, of people on Twitter, so not all of them are good people who are going to say good things," Lupul said in Toronto on Wednesday.

Toronto Blue Jay Adam Loewen knows all about being the subject of virtual chatter after switching from promising pitcher to position player because of injuries and control issues. He's learned not to look in the social-media mirror.

"I think as a young athlete that can really get under your skin and I've learned along the way to just not even go there, not even look at it," said the 28-year-old Surrey native.

"Because it never helped. I'd read what fans were saying and ask myself how I can accommodate them, rather than be myself and control what I can control." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's not just high school. It's towards athletes, co-workers, whatever."

Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman John-Michael Liles on cyberbullying

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	38	14	.731	—
New York	32	19	.627	51/2
Indiana	33	21	.611	6
Brooklyn	33	22	.600	61/2
Chicago	31	23	.574	8
Atlanta	29	23	.558	9
Boston	28	26	.519	11
Milwaukee	26	27	.491	121/2
Philadelphia	22	30	.423	16
Toronto	22	33	.400	171/2
Detroit	22	34	.393	18
Cleveland	17	37	.315	22
Washington	15	37	.288	23
Orlando	15	39	.278	24
Charlotte	13	41	.241	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	43	12	.782	—
Oklahoma City	39	15	.722	31/2
L.A. Clippers	39	17	.696	41/2
Memphis	35	18	.660	7
Denver	34	21	.618	9
Golden State	31	23	.574	111/2
Utah	31	24	.564	12
Houston	30	26	.536	131/2
L.A. Lakers	26	29	.473	17
Portland	25	29	.463	171/2
Dallas	24	29	.453	18
Minnesota	20	31	.392	21
New Orleans	19	36	.345	24
Sacramento	19	36	.345	24
Phoenix	18	37	.327	25

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

Thursday's results
Miami 86 Chicago 67
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers
Wednesday's results
Memphis 88 Toronto 82
Indiana 125 New York 91
Detroit 105 Charlotte 99
Cleveland 105 New Orleans 100
Minnesota 94 Philadelphia 87
Brooklyn 97 Milwaukee 94
Houston 122 Oklahoma City 119
Miami 103 Atlanta 90
Dallas 111 Orlando 96
L.A. Lakers 113 Boston 99
Golden State 108 Phoenix 98
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Denver at Washington, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Houston at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Boston at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
New Jersey	17	10	3	4	45	40	24
Pittsburgh	17	11	6	0	57	44	22
NY Rangers	16	8	6	2	41	41	18
Philadelphia	19	8	10	1	53	59	17
NY Islanders	17	7	9	1	50	60	15

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	17	11	4	2	49	39	24
Boston	14	10	2	2	41	33	22
Toronto	18	11	7	0	51	41	22
Ottawa	18	10	6	2	43	34	22
Buffalo	18	6	11	1	48	59	13

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Carolina	15	8	6	1	44	44	17
Tampa Bay	16	8	7	1	61	51	17
Winnipeg	16	7	8	1	41	50	15
Florida	16	5	7	4	40	58	14
Washington	16	5	10	1	43	54	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	16	13	0	3	55	34	29
Nashville	17	8	4	5	39	38	21
St. Louis	17	9	6	2	53	51	20
Detroit	17	7	7	3	45	51	17
Columbus	17	5	10	2	39	53	12

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	16	9	3	4	48	40	22
Minnesota	15	7	6	2	33	38	16
Colorado	15	7	7	1	38	43	15
Edmonton	15	6	6	3	36	41	15
Calgary	15	5	7	3	40	54	13

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	15	12	2	1	53	39	25
San Jose	15	8	4	3	39	34	19
Phoenix	16	8	6	2	44	41	18
Dallas	17	8	8	1	44	47	17
Los Angeles	15	7	6	2	36	38	16

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

Thursday's results
Florida 5 Philadelphia 2
New Jersey 3 Washington 2
Toronto 3 Buffalo 1
Winnipeg 4 Carolina 3
NY Islanders 4 Montreal 3 (OT)
Ottawa 3 NY Rangers 2 (SO)
Boston 4 Tampa Bay 2
Columbus 3 Detroit 2
Vancouver 4 Dallas 3
Minnesota at Edmonton
Wednesday's results
Philadelphia 6 Pittsburgh 5
Colorado 1 St. Louis 0 (OT)
Los Angeles 3 Calgary 1
Friday's games
All Times Eastern
Florida at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
New Jersey at Washington, 12 p.m.
Winnipeg at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at Edmonton, 3:30 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.
NY Rangers at Montreal, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Columbus at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 10 p.m.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, SABRES 1

First Period
1. Buffalo, Ennis 6 (Stafford) 13:20
Penalties — Brown Tor (Roughing) 15:08, Sulzer Buf (Holding) 19:18.
Second Period
2. Toronto, Phaneuf 3 (Kessel, Franson) 1:15 (pp)
3. Toronto, van Riemsdyk 10 (Kessel, Kostka) 18:04
Penalties — Gerbe Buf (Tripping) 3:38, Porter Buf (Goaltender Interference) 7:08, Bench Tor (Too Many Men) 12:55.
Third Period
4. Toronto, van Riemsdyk 11 (Franson, Phaneuf) 14:28 (pp)
Penalties — Scott Buf (Fighting) 3:07, McLaren Tor (Fighting) 3:07, Gerbe Buf (Roughing) 4:14, Phaneuf Tor (Roughing) 4:14, Porter Buf (Tripping) 12:36, Hecht Buf (Delay of Game) 13:20, Komarov Tor (Holding) 16:00.
Shots

Buffalo	13	6	13—32
Toronto	10	15	10—35

Goal — Buffalo: Miller (L, 6-9-1). Toronto: Scrivens (W, 5-4-0).
Power plays (goal-chances) — Buffalo: 0-3. Toronto: 2-5.
Referees — Dave Jackson, Dean Morton.
Linesmen — Scott Cherrey, Brad Kovachik.
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Arencibia OK not catching Dickey

MLB. Jays No. 1 catcher wants to catch knuckleballer but says it's not up to him

Toronto Blue Jays catchers, from left, J.P. Arencibia, Josh Thole and Henry Blanco chat on Thursday before a drill during baseball spring training in Dunedin, Fla. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Historically, not much importance should be given to playing time or statistics at spring training.

So while starting catcher J.P. Arencibia will be behind the plate for R.A. Dickey's first start in a Blue Jays uniform on Monday against the Red Sox, it's likely that by the time the regular season starts, Henry Blanco or Josh Thole will be his personal catcher.

This had the makings of the Jays' first true controversy of the spring, but Arencibia quickly tried to head it off.

"In this day and age, nobody catches 162 games," Arencibia said philosophically. "I'll be back there four out of five, regardless who it is. It's just more finding what works for the team."

But when the Jays traded for Dickey, Arencibia touched bases with the knuckleballing right-hander. He asked the defending NL Cy Young winner and fellow Nashville resident to play catch a couple of times a week so he could get used to the unpredictable dancing of Dickey's bread-and-butter pitch.

Arencibia has continued to work with him in bullpen sessions and they are both on Team USA at the upcoming WBC, though Joe Mauer is the No. 1 for the American team.

"I've shown that I can catch (the knuckler), I know I can catch it," Arencibia said. "For me, I want to play every game and I feel like I could play every one. But that's the nature of the game. That's not my decision."

Most durable starting catchers are behind the plate for about 130 games out of the 162 in the regular season. Thus, if Dickey makes his 34-36 starts and if another catcher is assigned to corral his knuckleball every five days, then Arencibia claims he is philosophical about the possibility.

There is a side issue here. The Jays have sold out opening night at the Rogers Centre on April 2 with Dickey pitching. And manager John Gibbons said on Wednesday that if the decision is to give Dickey a personal catcher, then that's the lineup they will go with.

"Opening day's special, obviously," Arencibia admitted. "You always want to be a part of opening day. Again, selfishly, you could be worried about it. If that's the best lineup for that day, that's the best lineup for that day." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Obviously you want to play every day, but you know you can't. And knowing that you can't, if that's the blow you get, that's the blow you get."

Blue Jays catcher J.P. Arencibia on the likelihood that he won't be catching pitches from R.A. Dickey during the regular season.

Danica Patrick stands in the garage at Daytona International Speedway on Thursday in Daytona Beach, Fla. JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY IMAGES

NASCAR. Patrick steers clear of danger to keep Daytona 500 pole position

Her car led the field to green, then Danica Patrick never gave herself a chance to race for the win at Daytona.

She's saving that all-out push for the Daytona 500.

Patrick had an easy choice in her first race since winning the pole for the Great American Race. She played it safe and stayed back Thursday, keeping her pole position for the Daytona 500.

All Patrick needed to do was keep her car intact to preserve the top spot for Sunday's Daytona 500. She started on the pole for the first 150-mile Budweiser Duel before she faded into the field and finished 17th out of 23 cars.

"I suppose there's a sense of relief" she kept the pole, Patrick said. "But at the same point in time, I'm a race-car driver, and it's not fun to have to protect and be careful and be cautious and drop back at times."

Patrick was nowhere near the four-lap sprint to the finish that saw Kevin Harvick hold off Greg Biffle for the win.

Patrick became the first woman in history to win a pole in NASCAR's Sprint Cup series. Team owner Gene Haas even suggested — perhaps jokingly — that Patrick start and park after two laps and save the car. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Playing favourites

Harvick no longer an underdog

Perfect so far at Speedweeks, Kevin Harvick has positioned himself as the favourite to win the Daytona 500.

It's the last label he wanted.

"We like to be the lame-duck underdog. That's what we're shooting for," Harvick said.

Harvick won the first Daytona 500 qualifying race on Thursday to make it 2-for-2 at Daytona International Speedway, where he also won an exhibition race last weekend. It positions Harvick, the 2007 Daytona 500 winner, as a top contender in Sunday's season-opening Great American Race.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Rules are meant to be broken, especially if they were made in someone else's favour. The bottom line is that your own needs come first. If that means going too far in some people's eyes, well, so be it.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Not everyone is as careful and conscientious as you and there is a real possibility that a mistake has been made. It may not be a serious one but it could affect you in some way, so check other people's work.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is one particular thing that needs your full and undivided attention today. You know what it is and you know you will have to focus hard if you are going to succeed. Don't let anything distract you.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Honesty is essential, even if it means that a long-standing friendship is put to the test. You may be tempted to avoid the truth to spare someone's feelings but in the long-term it will do more harm than good.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone needs to keep a clear head today and that someone has to be you. Others may get emotional but you must insist on common sense all the way down the line, for their sake as well as your own.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There are so many changes going on that you probably can't keep track of them all. Don't worry. Most of them will work in your favour. One warning though: Don't make promises you may not be able to keep.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Certain duties may be a pain but you know they have to be done. Even with its petty annoyances this could be a positive time for you. Show people that you can be trusted to work on your own.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something you had a hard time getting your head around yesterday will be as clear as crystal today. No doubt you will mentally kick yourself for being so dense but don't worry about it. You're allowed an off day now and again.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The first step in resolving a problem is to admit that it exists, so stop making excuses and face the reality of your present situation. The moment you do that is the moment the answers start coming.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something is worrying you but you can't put your finger on what it might be. Whatever it is the planets suggest it's not worth the effort, so focus on more pleasant thoughts. Don't let worry become a habit.

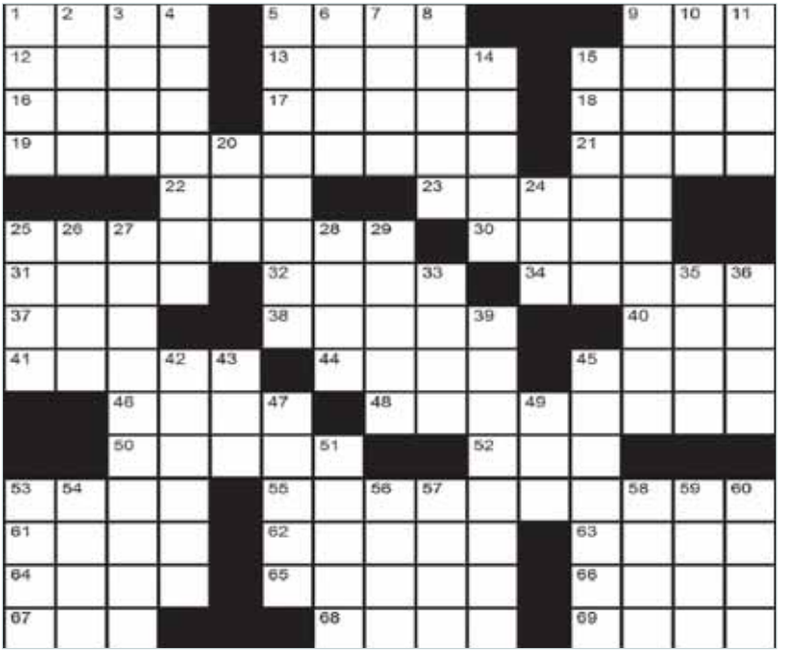
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A new path is beckoning and all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other and start walking. Just do it, otherwise you'll find all sorts of reasons to stay where you are.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you have an important decision to make today, you must take your time and get it right. If people press you to decide right away you can bet there is more in it for them than there is for you.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

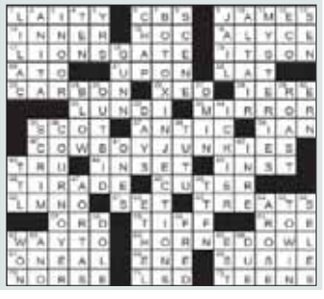
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Slightly open
5. Switch
9. "Skedaddle!"
12. __ Modern (London, England art gallery)
13. French painter Edouard
15. Ben Affleck movie up for Best Picture
16. Aesir ruler
17. Solo
18. Subj. with maps
19. This year's Oscars host, Seth __
21. Actor Jared
22. Soak flax
23. Actor Mr. Hawke
25. Great Lake
30. Elegant instrument
31. Get _ __ deal
32. "Ghostbusters" (1984) character, Dr. __ Spengler
34. Bit of an '80s Bonnie Tyler hit: "I __ _ hero..."
37. Greek†alphabet's 19th letter
38. "Sexy __" by The Beatles
40. Help
41. Daytime's DeGeneres
44. "A Beautiful __" (2001)
45. "Behold!" to Brutus
46. Radar signal
48. Those up for Oscars
50. Speedy
52. Texter's "Are you serious?!"
53. Squabble
55. Item on Wolfgang Puck's Governors Ball menu for the Oscars: __ __ with Pesto and Grilled Vegetables
61. Actress Ms. Russo
62. Blatant
63. British playwright, __ Coward
64. Mrs. Lincoln's maiden name
65. Clown in the opera Pagliacci
66. Prefix that means 'Within'
67. Fire or Army
68. Cable sports channel
69. Chair

Down
1. Bit of matter
2. Will Smith's wife
3. Suffix with 'Problem'
4. Holt __ (Swanky retailer)
5. Colourful candies
6. Partition
7. Old World buffalo
8. Type of pasta
9. Environmental activism group
10. "_ __ Stung" by Elvis Presley
11. "Is that for here or __ __?" (Fast food query)
14. Pre red carpet appointment, __ whitening
15. Dazzling
20. Irish airline, __ Lingus
24. Harrison Ford role, __ Solo
25. Fully satisfy
26. __ Mountains (Range in Russia)
27. "Canadian Man" country singer: 2 wds.
28. Old Irish alphabet [var. sp.]
29. Sculptor of The Thinker
33. El __ (Warm ocean current)
35. Board game pieces
36. Lemony drinks
39. Alberta city
42. Joyful
43. __-and-tuck
45. Search __ (Google, and others)
47. Basketball court maneuver
49. Pixie
51. Bell Biv __ (Music group)
53. Title for a Miss, in Spanish [abbr.]
54. Hireling
56. Mil. titles
57. "What _ __ off!" (It's too expensive)
58. No-fly, for one
59. Catherine __-Jones
60. Frequently: 2 wds.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	8		4	9	1		2	
4								8
		6				7		
8	2		1		6		3	7
				3				
6	3		9		7		5	4
		8				5		
3								2
	1		8	4	5		6	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	8	3	2	4	6	9	5
4	6	3	1	9	5	7	2	8
2	9	5	8	7	6	1	4	3
9	4	2	7	5	8	3	6	1
7	5	6	9	1	3	2	8	4
3	8	1	6	4	2	9	5	7
5	1	7	2	8	9	4	3	6
6	2	4	5	3	7	8	1	9
8	3	9	4	6	1	5	7	2

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